



IPPG NEWSLETTER

april 2004

Editorial

The last year has seen an expansion of programs worldwide aimed at improving the lot of the porters employed by tourism. IPPG started its porter (and trekker) rescue work at Machermo (in the Gokyo valley, Mt Everest region, Nepal). *Community Action Nepal* (CAN) will start building the Porter Shelter up there soon. Our future aim is to have a salaried Nepalese national as the educator, researcher and rescuer. This depends on secure sources of long term funding. The two porter shelters are now finished on the Annapurna sanctuary trek (see Hong Kong report below). *Porters Progress* in Nepal has expanded its vision considerably and is working with the ILO (International Labour Organization), reaching out into villages. *Porteadores Inka Nan* has teamed up with IMEC to strengthen their presence in Peru. *IMEC* and the *Kilimanjaro Guides and Porters Union* are improving the lot of Kilimanjaro porters. The *Kilimanjaro Porters Assistance Program* run by IMEC at Moshi is expanding in cooperation with innovative companies. *Tourism Concern* continues to be involved and supportive, especially in the UK.

As always, the IPPG country representatives spend much valuable voluntary effort. The results are detailed in the country reports detailed below.

On a sadder note, there have been tragedies and avoidable deaths. Many porters still venture above the tree line without the means to come back safely. If a justification is needed for the efforts of IPPG and the organizations mentioned above, read 'Porter death on a trek in Rolwaling' a report by Dutchman Jan Timmer, in this issue.

IPPG was one of the first organizations to stand up and speak out internationally for the mountain porters of the trekking industry worldwide. As new NGOs have arrived on the scene, IPPG has supported them with expertise and/or financially to help them become established. If you have ever considered helping the porters, now is the time to do so. Along with all our other programs IPPG has taken on a big commitment to ongoing costs for the running of the Machermo Porter Shelter and Rescue Post. Without your help this could fail.

Dr Jim Duff **INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR**

In this issue

Editorial.....	1	Financial Reports 2003	18
Reps in and out	2	How Do I Contact IPPG.....	19
Porter death on a trek in Rolwaling, Nepal .	2	Letters to the Editor (and others).....	20
From the reps around the world	4		
Kilimanjaro Porters/Guides Face Problems: Time For Change.....	9		
Machermo education, research and rescue post.....	11		
A Trip to Machermo.....	12		
Porteadores Inka Nan (Inka Porter Project) 2003 report.....	13		
Porters Progress Report	16		
International Mountain Explorers Connection.....	16		
View Everest through the eyes of your porter	17		

Congratulations Jim!

On behalf of all the representatives at IPPG and the special people who donated to Jim's Kilimanjaro climb, we would like to put our hands together and congratulate Jim on an inspiring effort to not only climb Kili (at his age!) but to raise a fantastic amount for the Machermo Porter Shelter and Rescue Project.

Well done Jim!

submitted by Lyn Taylor

Reps in and out

Welcome to our new reps

Ian Wall, UK

Ken McDonald, Canada/Pakistan (*Ken actually lives in Toronto, Canada. He has a special interest in championing the cause of porters in Pakistan*)

Per Nyberg, Sweden

Coralie Hicks, Rachel Stanton and Kirsty Robertson, Australia

Dr Hilary Liss, USA

Massimo Pastorelli, Italy

Moved

Brad Atwal now left UK (great job done as UK rep!) and is now a USA rep in San Francisco

REPS WANTED

in East Africa, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Canada (especially in the East). And also, in any country where there is none.

Porter death on a trek in Rolwaling, Nepal

Extract from an article by Jan Leendert Timmer published in Hoogtelijnen, Dutch mountaineering organization's (NKBV) magazine.

Prologue

October 1997 my friend Frank and I made an organised trekking in Nepal. Our aim was "The Hidden Valley" Rolwaling, west of Namche Bazar, including the high pass Trashi Laptsa (5755 m). Besides that, there was a chance to climb the trekking peak Parchamo (6273 m). Our group consisted of 13 persons, including our travel manager Mandina. For years I wanted to make a serious trek, I had trained a lot, I was looking forward to it.

28 September 1997, Schiphol 2m - NAP Netherlands

I missed the pre-union, so I met the group for the first time in Schiphol Airport. I had some small talk with everybody. Mandina, our travel manager, is a nice proactive lady. We check in and drink some coffee at the bar. She tells us she already knows two couples in our group from a previous trekking around Dhaulagiri. After sharing some general information, she tells that during a fierce snowstorm four porters have died in this trek. The victims were isolated from the group during an exceptional snowstorm at an elevation of 5000 m. The porters belonged to the Dutch and another French group. While other members of the group sheltered from the storm in tents, the porters died because of hypothermia.

I was shocked. My friend Frank and I look flabbergasted at one another. We wanted to go on a nice holiday. Later I realised Mandina wanted to tell this story to be straight with us.

11 October, Beding, 3600m

After 2 weeks we have arrived in Beding, the main village in the Rolwaling Valley. Now we are in the real high

mountains. We come to the end of the civilised world. Before us are white mountains.

15 October, Drolambao, Khaduk, 5350m

We arrive at a flat part of the glacier, at the edge of a middle moraine. High above us stands the snow covered Parchamo, and still higher stands the rock cathedral of Tangi Tagi Reu. Everywhere is soft crispering snow. With Mandina I explore the route to the Trashi Laptsa. We venture onto a ridge of ice, and 100 meters under the pass we turn back. The sun sets. The sky lightens purple, for a moment mountains, clouds dissolve in violet colours. Then it gets cold, ice cold.

16 October, Trashi Laptsa, 5755m

Today we are to cross the Teshi Laptsa pass...this year there are no crevasses or steep icefalls. On the steepest part of our climb to the pass we encounter a trekking group from Austria. It's a chaotic scene. Porters in old clothes, sit in the snow and slide down. Packages of luggage fly down. We step aside and wait until the group has passed.

In the afternoon we sit in the warm sun under the vertical wall of Tengi Tagi Rau. Most of our members don't feel like climbing Parchamo. Only my friend Frank and Mandina will join me. Two members have high-altitude sickness, and will go down immediately next morning

17 October, Tashi Poe, 5600m

I sleep very light. I hear someone sighing, coughing, all the time. Is it Rein? I try to deny the sound, but it doesn't work. What to do. Go into the extreme cold and watch. But Rein sleeps with Frans in his tent. He can watch him. At 1 o'clock I must pee. I decide to take a look at the same

time. Quickly I go out of my tent, I have to pee more seriously than I thought. The cold is breathtaking. Relieved I balance downhill. The noise is coming from our dining tent. I go inside. On some ropes and other climbing gear and under some small blankets lay five porters. One of them is breathing really fast. I talk to him: "Breathe slowly". I go to the sherpa tent, wake them and tell one of the porters is ill. They tell me it's not a porter from our group. After some persuasion they boil some water and I give the porter to drink. I tell him he should go down immediately next morning, but of course he doesn't understand me at all. I go back to my tent. I want to have some sleep before I climb Parchamo.

At 2 o'clock someone vomits. I have to pee again. The sighing has been going on continuously. Mandina is also awake. I tell her the story of the porter and she gives me a diamox. It appears that Rein has been vomiting, but he is feeling better now. I go to the dining tent, the porters is still sighing. I listen carefully and I'm startled. The porter is breathing noisily. Lung-oedema! I give him the diamox and a lot of water. I alarm Mandina and my friend Frank. They come down and examine the porter. Same diagnosis: Lung-oedema. We can think of only one solution, descend immediately. A few hundred meters should do according to the books. The downhill glacier looked easy yesterday during daylight. There is no time to loose. Action! The four companions of the porters look bewildered to us. What's going on. They simply don't understand. Their passivity annoys me. But the four companions are cold too and may be sick as well. Mandina tells our porters and sherpas to help the ill porter down. We wrap him up in blankets and guide him down. He can still walk it seems. The descent is relatively simple. But after 50 meters the porter can't walk himself anymore. We drag him down. We cannot waste time. After 150 meters the sick porter collapses. Frank takes him in his arms and shakes him, we shout, but no reaction.

Frank looks for the heartbeat of the porter. For a moment it is silent. Nothing. We slap his face, pinch his ears. Nothing. This is impossible, this cannot be. I open one of his eyes and shine with my lamp. His eyes stare into nothing. No reaction. The porter is dead. Pink froth comes out of his mouth. He has drowned in his own fluids. We cover the body and walk back to the camp. I fall into the arms of Mandina and cry like I never cried before.

Descent

That morning we didn't climb Parchamo. We never climbed Parchamo. Full of emotions we tell our group what has happened that night. Two companions of the dead porter leave to ask the sirdar of the Austrian group to return. Again the men cross the pass. We get to know the name of the dead porter, Raj Kanzar. One of the companions of Raj Kanzar stays with us. He is a little man with a gentle face,

he cries all morning. His grief is mixed with misunderstanding.

I walk to the dead body, kneel and pray. The little man watches me. I feel he doesn't understand what has happened that night. Why did we take his companion into the freezing night?

The sun is shining, brighter than ever. The contradiction with the dark night is almost unbearable. The sirdar of the Austrian group arrives. Bit by bit the story of Raj Kanzar becomes a little clear. He and his companions were in a high camp for the third night. Together with a group of Austrians they had left Namche Bazar a few days ago. The Austrians were acclimatised because they came from Gokyo. The five porters had too little time to acclimatize.

We leave and go down. We walk by the corpse. In thoughts I say goodbye. After 500 meters the trail on the glacier stops and the route goes through a steep ice gully. One of the elder members of our group slips, and she goes down headfirst. Everybody screams startled. With an unbelievable reflex she turns 180 degrees and stops with her feet. The descent through the ice gully is long and ends in a steep slope with gravel and rocks. I realise that a descent with the ill porter in the night would probably have been fatal, for him and his helpers. I feel that I have failed. My diagnosis was too late, we didn't organise his evacuation well, and the route we wanted to take was unknown and dangerous.

At the other hand, we were confronted in the middle of the night with an ill porter from another group, we didn't know anything about his status, how he felt the previous days, where he has been, what he has eaten and drank.

The death of the porter gives trekking a terrible sad taste. I doubt about tourism in Nepal, and the exploitation of porters. On the way back home to Lukla I see hundreds of young Nepalese porters carrying huge trunks, tables, chairs. Half of them go up, the other half goes down. And they all carry the same tourist junk. It's a way to make a living, I know. But how will they manage in high alpine terrain. The cold, the altitude, the wind. With only their thin clothes, bad shoes, heavy loads and poor food. I don't know. How many die each trekking season? Nobody knows.

Jan Timmer

Editor: This is a very moving account of the harsh realities of a porter's life and death. Like any industry it can be made safe, enjoyable and profitable for everyone. It just takes a little thought and effort. Go trekking but make sure your porters will be well equipped and cared for, BEFORE you go.

PS The round Dhaulagiri trek mentioned at the beginning of Jan's account and Trashi Lapsa where the porter died are very serious treks and should be treated as expeditions using only strong, fully equipped porters with dedicated food, sleeping bags and tents.

From the reps around the world

AUSTRALIA *Lyn Taylor*

2003 has been an eventful year for the team here in Australia. In June I traveled to Peru and met up with Alison at the Inca Nan Office. I was very impressed with the work that Ali had been doing in Cuzco, as she has a lot of red tape to get through as the Government is very difficult to deal with. I was able to take over approx 100kg of clothing for the porters in Cuzco and hope to take over another load when I return in June this year.

Whilst in Peru I did the Inca Trail and was impressed that there is a porter load restriction of 20kg plus 5kg of their own and although they are not required to be adequately clothed, all seemed to have shoes and warm clothing. I was there in the middle of winter and found it was quite different to Nepal, as there is not any snow so it is less likely that anyone would suffer from frostbite. I also trekked north of Peru in the mountaineering area and the trekking companies steer towards using donkeys rather than porters.

Although I have been away for 22 weeks this year I have managed to continue with my slide presentations and talks on the Porter issues.

THANK YOU

Thanks to all of my clients last year I was able to take over to Nepal a huge amount of clothing, and very happy to hand over to Trish Bachelor a cheque for AUD\$500 for the Machermo Project and AUD\$500 to Ben Ayers for Porters Progress. On returning home and thinking that our Australian funds were now exhausted, I was elated to receive an email from Phil

Hulcome who was planning to travel to Nepal in December and do voluntary work with Porters Progress. On behalf of IPPG I would like to thank Phil for his tireless work in collecting a total of \$1580 of which \$300 was donated to Porters Progress. I met Phil in the PP office in December and he was very excited to be helping Ben with PP.

I would also like to thank World Expeditions and Peregrine Australia for collecting gear and taking it to Nepal, also thank you for all of those trekking stores in Sydney and Melbourne who have donated gear towards the clothing bank.

Thanks to Paramount Gymnasium of Ascot Vale, and Ascot Vale Sports & Fitness Centre, for arranging the collection of boots, sleeping bags,

thermal wear etc. from their members, which was delivered to Peru. Thanks also to Qantas and Lan Chile for permission to carry excess baggage to Lima.

The Kathmandu store located at town hall in Sydney (Mr Simon Wilson) has agreed to give IPPG \$100 worth of vests as a donation.

Two other people who are helping me at the moment are Coralie Hicks who has some wonderful promotional ideas planned for 2004 and Kirsty Robertson who in 2003 spoke to many groups mainly through her contacts at University Mountaineering clubs, bushwalking clubs and Duke of Edinburgh groups. Kirsty's real hope in 2004 is to produce some sort of educational material that can be used by reps in schools and with groups. Rachel Stanton is also very active by assisting in putting this newsletter together - thank you Rachel. Ken Chamberlain down in Melbourne is still spreading the good word on IPPG.

Plans for 2004

My plan for 2004 is to present the Porter Photo Exhibition here in Sydney and with the assistance of my colleagues and Ben Ayers who is planning to visit Australia in December and some well know mountaineering identities it may just happen

CANADA *Elsie James*

Have boots will travel!

IPPG reps Elsie James and Wanda Vivequin managed to tap enough Canadian travelers on the shoulder to move across at least 150 pairs of boots for porters to Nepal, in time for the autumn trekking season. It seems everyone lugging a huge duffelbag with donated boots



(mainly from Mountain Equipment Co-op in Vancouver and Edmonton. Thanks MEC!!) had no problems getting the goodies into the country.

The storeroom at Porters Progress in Kathmandu was emptied quickly as the donated

boots were loaned out to porters heading into the very busy Khumbu and Annapurna regions. It is marvelous to know that many pairs of hard working feet were well shod this season thanks to the generosity of Canadians.

Boots continue to pile up in both Vancouver and Edmonton awaiting couriers so if you know someone heading over to Nepal please contact Wanda on wandavivequin@hotmail.com.

Presentations on IPPG activities and screening the video *Carrying the Burden* were the mainstay of our efforts and included slides shows in Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary and Banff. The Banff and Edmonton efforts were boosted by support from Everest summiteers Pat Morrow and Deryl Kelly (Deryl is the youngest Canadian to summit Everest and works at the University of Alberta)– thanks to you two for your time and support.

Elsie also received a \$100 honorarium for her presentation at Mt Royal College in Calgary on IPPG and \$100 was collected during a presentation at the University of Alberta on one of the coldest, windiest nights of the year.

Finally, Wanda managed to get an article about the rescue of a porter in the Gokyo Valley and the vital role the rescue post at Machermo played in this, published in the Nepali Times during the high profile 50th Anniversary celebrations for the first ascent of Everest. The article featured on the same page an opinion piece by Reinhold Messner, so we are certain many people will have read this amazing story.



happy girls!

Informal advocacy by all IPPG representatives around Canada continues to play a vital role in highlighting the issues surrounding portering. Whether it be working in a store, sharing a cup of tea with folks traveling to countries where IPPG activities are being undertaken or talking

with people on the trekking trails.....every little bit counts.

Thanks for everything – the Canadian IPPG team.

EAST AFRICA Chris Morris

I have had contacts with Tourism Concern in the UK and passed on various background info about the history and conditions of portering in East Africa. Also linked with a US company, African Safaris & Expeditions, and they are keen to link up and supply protective clothing to porters organisations in Moshi.

I was taken ill when last in Tanzania and unable to complete what I'd hoped to do. Since then my family commitments back in UK have kept me here - and are likely to do so for immediate future - I fear I am going to be of little help this year. I would happily yield my position to someone more able to be active than me at present.

FRANCE Dr Nicholas Peschanski

I gave a photo session last October in Dieppe General Hospital. That was a great success and I'll do it again soon in a bigger room. I'm still contacting trekking companies over Paris about the trekking routes and advertising the porter's health and respect. I'm working on it with the Honorary Consul for Nepal in Rouen, France, Dr Didier Benard. We translate each newsletter in plain text and give to trekkers going to Nepal. I am working on organising an IPPG non-profit French organisation for fundraising purposes.

Namaste from France

HONG KONG Pete Clarke (retiring)

Since my last report we have been involved in a large amount of fundraising. In the last 12 months, through Island School, Hong Kong, we have managed to raise US\$5500. With this added to the US\$7000 that we had raised in the previous 12 months or so, it gave us enough to



Deurali shelter

complete the building of two porter shelters up near Annapurna Base Camp. One is situated near the entrance to the sanctuary at Deurali and the other is at Machpuchare Base

Camp. We have named one of them "The Wilberforce Hut" after Wilberforce House at Island School which has led the fundraising and the other is "The Islanders Hut" after the

students, ex students, staff and friends of Island School, who have dipped deep into their pockets over the last three or four years. The huts were built by ACAP (Annapurna Conservation Area Project) who will look after them. Many thanks to Gehendra Bahadur Gurung, of ACAP, who oversaw the project and to Prakash Adikhari, the IPPG rep in Kathmandu, who set the project up.



Machapuchare basecamp shelter

The fund raising activities have included sponsored walks, sponsored fasts and sponsored silences, cake and pizza sales and, far closer to my heart, a sponsored beard shave. Yes, I managed to raise US\$3000 in sponsorship to remove the beard that I have proudly owned since 1975! I have to say that,

after my 8 year old daughter completely freaked out, I had no option but to grow it back again.

In addition to the completion of the huts, we have managed to buy a satellite phone plus the necessary accessories for Trish Batchelor. It will be used at the aid post at Machermo half way up the Gokyo valley, and our current project is to raise US\$5000 towards finishing the solar panel electricity system that will provide power at the post and for the oxygen concentrator in particular. As I write this we are pleased to say that Sir Chris Bonington has kindly agreed to give up some of his time on his way through Hong Kong to come into Island School and speak to the staff and students. I am hoping that his appearance will get the campaign off to a good start.

By the time the next newsletter will appear in 2005, I will have left Hong Kong (after 18 years here) and will have returned to the UK. I will be stepping down as the HK rep. I am hoping that the fundraising side at Island School will continue for some time in the future, but it will be under the auspices of a new rep. I would like to take this opportunity to say how much I have enjoyed being involved in IPPG and wish everyone connected with IPPG well.

ITALY Navyo Eller

Welcome to Massimo Pastorelli who will be assisting Navyo.

Various Italian mountain magazines have reported about IPPG Italy and soon the Italian mountain magazine "Montagnard" will publish a big article about IPPG and porter problems in Nepal.

In 2004 we are launching the IPPG Italy website and more activities, for which some organizations have already agreed to collaborate. Massimo will coordinate this work.

Thanks

We would like to thank *La rivista della Montagna* ("the mountain magazine"), *Alp*, *La rivista del Trekking* ("the trekking magazine") for their publication of IPPG issues, as well as their promised commitment for the future projects of IPPG Italy. We also thank to the online sites for mountain issues: www.mountains.it, www.inalto.com and www.adagio.it for similar support.

NEPAL Prakash Adhikari

I have started to operate a campaign of 'personal approach', visiting some porter shelters. I found it very interesting. I talked to over 15 porters on one visit. In one place I found a porter whose fingers of both legs were frostbitten. It looked very bad. He has been staying at the hotel over a month in the hope of getting better. But he was still the same. I feel he needs some medical advice probably further medical treatment.

I also went to another porter shelter where I talked over 12 porters. They were very interested. I also found some who had participated in the IPPG Porter Safety Training workshops. They are really interested about what I talked to them about. They are also interested to get more IPPG porter safety training.

This personal approach is a very good idea for the porter. I think I will continue this campaign. I am looking for a volunteer who wants to help and get involved in this campaign.

I was able to print the newsletter and distribute it to travel/trekking agencies and embassies/consulates in Nepal. There has been a passive attitude among the tourism industry because of the political problems in our country.

In the coming year, I will organize more porter training workshops.

See also the Machermo Porter Shelter and Rescue post report in this newsletter

NETHERLANDS Charles Halberstadt

I have been very busy this year with work and family. So I haven't done anything special for IPPG, except helping the Machermo porter rescue post financially.

Plan For 2004

I will publish the article about the death of a porter in the Rolwaling valley by Jan Leendert Timmer soon on our website and in 2004 or 2005 there will be a big HT party again which will also be a fundraiser. I will be in KTM soon and will visit the KTM offices of IPPG and Porters Progress.

NEW ZEALAND Cheska Hadleigh

All I can manage to keep going over here is the clothes collection at two outdoor shops, linking with World Expeditions clients who are travelling to Kathmandu so they can carry a

small amount of the pile of gear I have in my garage. Both outdoor shops are called: Bivouac.

Thai Airlines remain in agreement for travellers on direct flight to have an excess 10kgs World Expeditions in Auckland asks clients about transporting the clothes and set up this with Thai Airlines. Anyone travelling to Nepal, East Africa or Peru, who could take some gear, please contact me. I am looking for someone to take over as IPPG rep New Zealand.

I would like to acknowledge the fantastic work been done by people to better the lot of porters.

SCANDINAVIA

David Durkan and Lena Fauske

David was trekking in Nepal in the autumn and bumped into Rejane and Jim Duff on the trail. He was also in Tibet, then Sikkim, where he noted the IPPG poster on display at the start of the Kanchenjunga trail. A local village environmental group has produced a small porters guide with tips and information. Much of the IPPG material has been used here, but they have added their own ideas to suit the local requirement. Well done!

Lena has sent her previously published article on IPPG to the Norwegian Alpine Club. In 2004 we are planning an IPPG brochure in Norwegian, with additional tips for trekkers, and to pick where we left off.

Note: Per Nyberg has now joined the Scandinavian team, becoming IPPG rep for Sweden

UK Brad Atwal (Ex)

The UK travel media focussed heavily on the Everest 50th anniversary celebrations in 2003. Whilst there was more hype about past and present Everest summiteers it was encouraging to see that most publications dedicated page space to the porter issue. IPPG received mentions in *The Big Issue* and *The Sunday Times' special Everest 50th anniversary edition*.

During the year I helped to establish the IPPG e-newsletter. We have around 40 people so far who have signed up by just visiting the site. This will be an efficient way to stay in touch in the future and cut down on mail out of the IPPG newsletter.

The most exciting event this year though was the lecture to 'Celebrate the Mountain Porter' at the Royal Geographical Society with Ben Ayers and mountaineer Doug Scott. 300 people



attended the evening and we were able to raise £600 each for Porters Progress (PP) and Doug's Community Action Nepal (CAN) as well as £300 for an orphanage in Nepal. IPPG received some donations via the event and we were well publicized in *Tourism Concern's newsletter*, *Adventure Travel magazine*, *Outdoorsmagic.com*, *Geographical Magazine*, *Global Magazine*, *TGO Magazine* and *Wanderlust Magazine*. Doug also placed the talk in ads that he paid for. Ben has received some extra funding from individual donors on the night and he is also writing an article for *Geographical magazine* as a result.

In the pipeline a leading adventure travel company is organising a special fundraising trek with Ben Ayers as leader/translator set to depart in October 2004. This is a unique idea developed with Ben's assistance, which will hopefully grab the imagination of the public and media.

A portion of the trip cost will go to Porters Progress and another portion will go to the IPPG/CAN Machermo Porter Shelter and Rescue Post.

It has been a great experience to be part of the IPPG team in the UK but I am moving to the USA where I will continue my involvement with IPPG.

Thanks

Special thanks go to all the donors. I would also like to thank Jon Doran from *Outdoorsmagic.com* and John Telfer from *Explore Worldwide* for helping to publicise the lecture. An even bigger thanks to Gordon Steer at *World Expeditions UK* for being so flexible and allowing me to attend to IPPG duties within his office and for raising funds via their lectures as well as always placing IPPG flyers at any events. I would also like to send my best wishes to Jo Chittenden, former UK IPPG rep, who is recovering from an accident.

Note: Ian Wall is now the new IPPG UK rep. Ian is a board member of Community Action Nepal and is responsible for building the Machermo Porter Shelter and Rescue Post

SCOTLAND Jeff Frew

My main involvement has been through my role as CAN trustee with Ian Wall on the Machermo project. Ian, as we know, is now taking lead role in this. I went to Nepal on a UK/Nepal cultural exchange program, although this was CAN initiative much of the workshop material related to IPPG. I did a slide show/lecture on main areas of IPPG work/philosophy etc. We will also be producing a quality leaflet for trekkers going to Solu Khumbu to educate and make more aware the issues related to impact of trekking and the issues of sustainability, economics, and environmental impact. We did this with a group of environmentalists from National Trust (Scotland), Scottish Natural Heritage, Mountaineering Council Scotland and East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The aim was to tie-in similar experiences about environmental issues between Nepal and the UK. A major discussion point throughout the 3-days of workshops (attended by all Nepal/CAT/CAN staff, porters and guides) was the issue of porter conditions and wages, hence sizeable and official IPPG input.

USA Peter Herrick-Stare, Bernhard Fassl

Activities 2003:

1. Slide shows about porters in the Himalayas
2. Slide show about child porters in Nepal and discussion of child porter and its medical implications
3. Travel information pamphlets and information sheets available at the REI shop in Salt Lake City and Patagonia outlet store in Salt Lake City.
4. Presentation of IPPG during a lecture series about volunteer organizations at the University of Stanford, California.

Plans for 2004

Return to Nepal in Fall 2004 - follow up on an educational project in Kusma/Narayanstan: children of porters receiving basic education/writing/reading skills. Slide shows for the medical and non medical community in Salt Lake City. Continuation of distribution of information sheets at big travel stores and travel agencies.

REPS WANTED in East Africa, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Canada (especially in the East). And also, in any country where there is none.

Kilimanjaro Porters/Guides Face Problems: Time For Change

(edited extract from a letter by Joseph Nyabari)

Tourism is big business on Kilimanjaro and other mountains in Tanzania. Here are some of the problems facing porters and guides on the mountains of Tanzania.

Tour Operators Allowances

Some companies still paying Tshs.2000-3000 per day (US\$2-3) to the porters and Tshs.3500-5000 (\$3-5) per day to the guides.

Out of this, the porters have to pay their own transport from Arusha/Moshi to the park gates and back. Porters also will pay from \$1-2 for the food they ate on the mountain while they eat almost nothing. They will also pay \$1-2 per person for cleaning the climbing gears while they can clean themselves.

The allowances are given to the guides to distribute to the porters and are normally paid in the bar where guides will demand the porters to buy him some beers, or deduct some money out of their allowance as a bribe for giving them the trip.

The poor porter ends getting as little as US\$10 for a 6-day trip.

Some guides or managers also demand up to US\$5 from the porters before allowing them to work for their companies. Some companies delay the allowances up to two weeks after the climb.

Luggage

Till now, some porters are carrying up to 50 kgs.

There are so many cases where the guides go to the ranger (weighing personnel) before weighing the luggage and bribe him to allow the porters to pass either without checking the weight or without deducting anything if the load is found too heavy. The porters will then carry more, and the guide will make extra money by reducing the number of porters.

If the load is too heavy, a day-trip porter will be hired to take the load to the first hut/camp then the rest of the days the extra weight will be divided among the porters since there are no more weighing policy.

Equipment

(a) Tents

On Kilimanjaro, the porters sleep in the old worn out tents. They are very old and terribly leaking. The porters will even sleep ten of them in a tent that accommodates three to four tourists.

(b) Sleeping pads

One out of ten porters has a sleeping pad. He could be the lucky one to have been given a pad from a tourist. No tour operators give sleeping pads to porters or even guides.

(c) Sleeping bags

Very few porters have sleeping bags, unless a tourist has given them one. You will even find porters carrying Maasai blankets (bed sheet). Some carry light gear to avoid heavy load since they do not know how much they are going to carry. If you are given 40kgs of luggage, plus 5kgs of your own gear, you have 45kgs to carry. Some porters might lose their trip if they seem to carry too much of their own gear.

(d) Rainjackets

This is a piece of rare equipment for the porters to have, and if one has one, it is terribly leaking and shameful to call it a rain jacket on Kilimanjaro. You will find some porters covered by nylons that used to cover mattresses against dust in shops. One nylon costs US\$1

Huts and Toilets

You will never understand the huts problem on Kilimanjaro unless you have visited the rooms where guides and porters sleep at nighttime. In high season (June to September), a room with four beds (six by six feet) sleep up to 30 guides and porters with their bags, food and cooking gear. Porters and guides will have to wait until six o'clock in the evening to get into the huts. They will just sit outside in the cold waiting for the rooms to be provided. Imagine a porter arriving at Horombo hut (3720m) at 1pm sitting outside till 6pm to get into the room. There is only one toilet in every hut for guides and porters. One can imagine how many porters are in Horombo hut per day, and these people sharing one pit toilet?

Guides and Porters Rescue

Personally, I have been climbing Kilimanjaro for more than five years. I have never seen a guide or a porter being rescued. A porter dying on Kilimanjaro is a common thing, and no one from Kilimanjaro Park management bothers if a porter is sick or dies. Even the tour operators will not bother if one of his porters has died. In 2003 for instance, there was a car accident carrying porters and guides from Kilimanjaro. One porter died, and a guide and others seriously wounded. The tour agent would not even visit the victims in hospitals and their allowance has not even been paid.

Is this a fair tourism that everyone sings all over the world? The answer is definitely **NO**.

Porters

Punishment

One of you might have seen a Park Warden or a Ranger beating a porter at Machame gate or elsewhere on Kilimanjaro or one of the Parks in Tanzania?

I have personally witnessed this to my own porters being beaten by a Park Warden and Rangers at Machame gate. One of my porters was once beaten by a Ranger and ended up losing his climb simply because he entered the yard without a permission from the Ranger.



Tipping

This is also a big problem especially to the porters. So many guides will demand the tip from clients given to them for distribution on their behalf. Some will do it fairly, but in most cases it is not so. The tips are demanded during the porters' absence, especially in the dining room. The guide will never mention the exact money given as a tip. He will hide some and distribute some, pretending to be fair.

There were some cases in 2003, where one guide got US\$800 from the clients, and he told

the porters that he was given only US\$400. The guide and his assistant took US\$200 and the rest was distributed among 15 porters.

The porters will say nothing because otherwise they will miss the next climb. The porters are not also allowed to talk to tourists or ask them how much they gave as a tip.

Food

Porters may get leftovers from tourists and some will even get their money deducted for this.

Most of the porters rely on porridge for the entire trip and still they will pay US\$ 1-2 after their trip for food. Only few companies (if not two only in Tanzania) give lunch and breakfast to the porters.

**Something must be done to improve the above problems
That is why we are forming the UNION**

For more information, contact:

**The Base Manager
Kilimanjaro Guides and Porters Ltd
P.O.Box 10699
Arusha Tanzania**

**Tel/Fax: +255 (027) 2509215
Cell: +255 (0) 744- 544539
E-mail: info@kilimanjaro-union.com
Website: www.kilimanjaro-union.com**

Editor: I have met Joseph Nyabasi and he seems committed to the cause, he assures me the porters and guides will all be members of the company or cooperative running the union. This has promise and, having started only four months ago, I wait to see how it develops.

Machermo education, research and rescue post

Dr Trish Batchelor, Operation Coordinator

The Machermo education, research and rescue operation is all set to run again this spring trekking season from late March to late May. Once again it will be based at Namgyal's Lodge as we await the purpose built Porter Shelter to be built by CAN. We have had some fantastic donations and the clinic will be far better equipped to deal with emergencies this year.

A big thank you to:

Hong Kong IPPG – Funded the satellite phone so we will be able to organize evacuations, communicate directly with Kunde Hospital etc.

International Mountain Explorers Connection (formerly the *Himalayan Explorers Connection*) – bought us an Airsep oxygen concentrator and got it out to Nepal. This equipment converts fresh air into medical grade oxygen and will be a lifesaver in the rescue operations.

Skipton CRO for the donation of a folding stretcher and *Ian Wall (UK IPPG/CAN)* for personally delivering it to Namgyal's Lodge, Machermo (see Ian's article below).

Austin Metivier (architect) and *Steve Tremblay (draftsman)* of *DMG architects, Quebec* for designing and drawing up a set of inspiring plans for the new facility which will incorporate as much energy conservation as possible.

IPPG Reps from Australia and Canada have raised generous donations towards the ongoing costs of the clinic such as medical supplies and wages for the Nepali first aid worker.

Dr Jim Duff – funding for our basic solar electric system to run all our electrical equipment, including the Airsep. (We will upgrade to a full system once the Porter Shelter is built).

The research, education and rescue team will be in place late March and will work through until mid to late May. We have volunteer doctors and nurses coming from Australia and Raj Weiber has been employed as rescue worker after he proved to be such a popular and valuable member of the team last season.

This season we will run daily educational lectures. For the porters lectures will cover health issues such as altitude related problems and HIV/STD's (an increasing problem on the trail) and for the trekkers; porter safety and care plus acute mountain sickness. As well as our educational role we will collect data on porter problems and report these to HMG Nepal.

The future

CAN (Community Action Nepal - Doug Scott's charitable organization) have committed to building a porter shelter in Machermo. This is a very exciting project with space for 60 porters (and many more in bad weather conditions).

There will be space at the Porter Shelter for our educational, research and rescue team. A local Sherpa management committee, set up by the Buffer Zone Committee (Kumbila) supported by IPPG will oversee the running of this facility. Ongoing funding is needed to keep the project going and to fit out the shelter and its kitchen as well as the education, research and rescue facility. One future aim is to have a salaried Nepalese national as the educational, research and rescue worker. This depends on secure sources of long term funding. If you can help with a donation contact your country representative or Ian Wall (uk@ippg.net mail: 87 Birchwood Drive, Ulverston, Cumbria, LA12 9NZ).

Finding volunteer doctors or nurse/paramedics (Nepalese or foreign) to run the post in season will be a major issue. If you are interested please contact me on trishb@mos.com.np

Medical Books	2,500
Oxygen	14,000
Drugs	12,210
Printing	700
Bags/ bowls	2,200
Batteries	600
Paper	200
Raaj wages	36,000
Bonus Raaj	2,000
Raaj room/board/travel	60,000
Dr Liss support/porters	20,000
Dr Swinkels support/porters	11,000
Porters	5,000
TOTAL (in NPR)	166,410

A Trip to Machhermo

By Ian Wall, IPPG UK rep (and CAN board member)



The official handing over of the stretcher in Machhermo

Have you ever tried to get something like this folding stretcher - on a long haul flight ...as hand luggage? Well I have!

All trekkers going into the Everest region follow the trail north from Namche Bazaar. From there the trail divides with one route going direct to Kala Pattar, [5,545m] and Everest Base Camp and the other route to Goyko Ri, [5,483m] and the Cho La pass [5,420m]. A rescue post serves the first route, and there is a rudimentary porter shelter. The second route has no shelter or rescue facility at all.

By the time the trekker has reached 4500 metres at Lobuche or Machhermo on these two routes they are well into the oxygen thin atmosphere that can cause Acute Mountain Sickness, (AMS).

During the height of the trekking season there can be as many as 900 porters in the vicinity of Lobuche (route one) or Machhermo (route two). Porters are in the area for 24 - 36 hours while the trekkers ascend either

viewpoint before heading back down to Namche Bazar. On the Gokyo route many of these porters spend the night in caves above Machhermo.

Most trekking companies are reputable and look after their porters, providing wind shell, food and shelter above the tree line. But there are some that put profit before their porters and each year for the last 10 years I estimate that on average 3 or 4 porters die from AMS or cold in miserable circumstances up in the Gokyo valley.



It is not difficult to imagine the impact a porter's death has on their family in a country with no social safety net. Women and children are left to fend for themselves, especially if the dead porter was not insured.

CAN and IPPG are working in partnership with the local Sherpa Machhermo User Group to provide a shelter for porters and to offer help to anyone in difficulty in the Gokyo Valley. The Porter Shelter & Rescue Post will operate under the watchful eye of the Buffer Zone (Kumbila). Land has been donated by the Sagarmatha National Park and ground preparation will begin in the early Spring 2004.

The project will be run under CAN and IPPG's 'self help' policy. Although CAN will take responsibility for the construction of the building using a local work force IPPG will take on the

responsibility for the yearly running costs. During the initial building stages porters will be involved in carrying up some of the building material and other equipment. At present we are working with Ben Ayres and Porter Progress to

develop porter ownership of this project and as the project progresses the porters and local people will take on increasing responsibilities for its practical up keep and development.



Impression of the proposed Porter Shelter and Rescue Post looking west up the Machhermo Valley (courtesy of DMG architects, Quebec)

Equipment has already started to be accumulated in a temporary home at Namgyal Lodge. The mountain rescue stretcher I accompanied up there last December was donated by the Northern Cave Rescue group at Clapham, N Yorkshire. During that visit basic instruction was given in stretcher use and casualty evacuation. Several meetings were held with local groups and all expressed interest and a positive response to the project.

Since my return to the UK I have received a letter from the nearby village of Dole in which the writer, Urken Sherpa as chairman of his village committee expresses his support for the project and offering any help that we might need.

As a Trustee of CAN and the UK representative for the IPPG I have taken on the role of liaison with the local Sherpas to expedite construction of the Porter Shelter and rescue Post.



Do you want to be part of the team?

If you enjoy the mountains and think that this is a worthwhile project then please contribute. Make cheques payable to **International Porter Protection Group** and send to:

The Machhermo Project
c/o Ian Wall, IPPG/CAN
87 Birchwood Drive
Ulverston, Cumbria, LA12 9NZ

For contributions in countries other than the UK, contact your country rep (see pages 19 and 20) or contact Ian at uk@ippg.net.

Porteadores Inka Nan (Inka Porter Project) 2003 report

Alison Crowther, Director IPP and IPPG Peru rep

January and February saw Alison, still alone on the project in the UK, looking for support... which was forthcoming from Explore Worldwide, Journey Latin America, STA Travel. With a flight, 6-month insurance and five return trips Cusco-Lima, Ali returned in March.

By May we had moved into a tiny office in Cusco next to South American Explorers, and had two long-term volunteers.... Lucy Bertenshaw committed to working for a year, full time and Lucy Brandram was part-time from May to October 2003. (Lucy Bertenshaw will leave at the end of April 2004, so we are looking for a long-term volunteer to coordinate the short term volunteers and look after tourist inquiries... More on this later). Lucy Brandram will return to Cusco in March to work full time.

In June we had our opening party, marking our entrance onto the Cusco scene. Since then we have outfitted the office with three donated computers, all necessary office equipment and internet access, redesigned the website, issued flyers and written articles. Below is a list of events and notable activities....

- Followed up informally the eight porter workshops held during 2002 – monitoring

current problems and collecting the porters ideas for solutions.

- Spoke and facilitated a workshop at the Porters Congress for two days in June, arranged by the Mayor of Ollantaytambo (the nearest village to the start of the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu), attended by about 300 porters.
- Designed laminated English vocabulary cards for porters to carry on their treks.
- Three trips to take tourists out to the Sacred Valley, one hour from Cusco to teach porters English.
- Issued flyers raising awareness of the project including advice for tourists when choosing agencies and hiring porters.
- Collaborated with PeruRail on a tourist flyer (paid for by PeruRail) of safety and porter advice whilst staying in and around Cusco. Over 1000 copies have been distributed throughout Cusco... more are needed and a reprint is currently happening.
- Edited and copied to CD an 11-minute video filmed by Alison about the problems porters face on the Inca Trail and why IPP exists.

This is available from us and in the UK and the US.

- Set up an account and other office systems. In the near future we expect that another local NGO with a similar but wider mission statement will take over the bureaucratic part of running the organization.... Accounts, tax etc.
- Set up an equipment loan scheme for tourists to hire equipment for porters – and in some cases for themselves.
- Received about 12 large duffels full of equipment from various sources... mostly from International Mountain Explorers Connection and some from IPPG reps. There were a number of individual donations of items and bags of clothing.
- Took a tour to a local porter community where Alison was asked to be the 'godmother' of the festival.
- Met with many agencies and government departments introducing the project.
- Collaborated with Universidad Peruana de Ciencias in Lima on two semesters of a course to design a specialized backpack for porters. This included taking 20 tourists to measure porters for their backpacks and arranging for two students to visit the equipment stores of eight agencies to measure the equipment taken on trails and interview agency and government representatives. This project will be taken forward collaboratively in the coming months.

The latest news is that on 14th January, the Inka Porter Project was asked to be the facilitator and driver of a consensus building process to create solutions and practical proposals and actions to solve many of the porter issues in Machu Picchu. Many of these solutions will be applicable throughout Peru, preventing problems at other ancient Inca sites before they occur.

The plan for the coming year...

Organisational Strategy

We are currently writing a strategy which will be very influenced by the dialogue process that is about to start between all the major players. We envisage a large part of this to be planning capacity building programs for porters, possibly with agency accreditation attached to this, as well as lobbying to change some of the laws that currently don't work and to stamp out the corruption that currently exists, especially on the

Inca Trail. We are keen that all this work is done in consensus with the major players so that they feel it is their own and will not do the usual thing of disagreeing with and actively fighting anything they are not well informed about.

We will become part of another NGO in the near future... much easier for us because we are not Peruvian. More news on this later.

We have funding and a contract from International Mountain Explorers Connection to develop the vivencial tourism trip and also teaching materials for porters and awareness raising materials for Tourists. The total grant is \$2500. We are able to get funds given tax free to them which are then used to support our projects.

Tourism Concern is the partner in the UK who is taking tax-free donations for us. In the coming year we need to get this relationship more structured and controlled.

People

We will start the year with Lucy Bertenshaw as Volunteer Coordinator, but will lose her at the end of April. WE URGENTLY NEED A REPLACEMENT preferably from the beginning of April for a year.

Lucy Brandram will come back in March and hopefully stay till the end of the year (money permitting) working on fundraising, marketing, articles and the consensus building process.

Within the proposals we will write, we will look to fund a Peruvian office administrator (to answer Spanish emails, sort out printing, basic accounts and Cusco activities) and a director to replace Alison.

Alison has to go to the UK in February, and as yet we have no money for her to return to Peru.... hopefully this will be forthcoming before April. In England she will continue to work on the project, build contacts and do talks at events and universities. On her return we will hopefully have some money to contract a director and Alison will slowly hand over to this person.

By the end of 2004 Alison will not need to be on site at all and will probably be living in another country.... (three years in Peru is enough). She still expects to be involved, raising awareness (probably globally) about the project and its lessons and results and the use of consensus building techniques to build sustainable solutions to the problems faced by porters in Latin America. She will also be the main contact for "Porters without Borders" an initiative to share porter experiences lessons between countries

and which will hopefully culminate in porters from different countries visiting each other.

Communications

We have managed to achieve a lot in the first year, and the second year will serve to maintain and update the publicity we already have.

- With the public: publish the next four quarterly newsletters, *El Ch'aski*, which keeps all interested parties and tourists up to date. Continue to copy and update flyers and increase the area by asking volunteers to distribute flyers in other Latin American countries
- With porters: increase the number of porter workshops
- With other stakeholders: manage and maintain the Porter Dialogue Process which includes all actors.
- With the Steering Group: we will continue to write updates every month for feedback from our steering group.

Tourism Awareness Activities

The best way for tourist to really get a feel for the problems and solutions available to indigenous portering communities is to visit them. We have two ideas on this front:

1. Arrange more short trips (1 or 2 days) to portering communities and their festivals for tourists who happen to be in Cusco at the time
2. Plan three different community-based tours from 10 to 14 days for foreign tourists which take in the Inca Trail, possibly Lake Titicaca, Lima. We will use the most eco-friendly

Thank yous

- A big thank you to the two Lucys (the volunteers)
- Explore Worldwide
- STA Travel
- Journey Latin America
- Condor Travel, Peru
- Restaurants and Bars of Cusco for putting up posters and contributing food to the party
- IPPG Australia for a couple of shipments of clothes
- HEC (now IMEC) for constant administrative support and clothes and equipment shipments – and the voluntary help of Ken Stober who put in our computer network and internet link
- UPC university in Lima for collaboration on the porter backpack design
- The hundreds of volunteers who passed through our doors over the past year, helping with teaching English, paper-making, accounts systems, website design, newsletter writing, and general fetching and carrying.

hostels, and agencies which have a proven track record in caring for the environment and their staff. Where possible we will stay with local people. This is a pilot project in what is called in Spanish “vivencial turismo” or living tourism.

Research

Some of the most dangerous portering activity in Latin America happens in the south of Argentina. We hear that things are not set up very well there and would like to visit and see what the porters there could learn from our experiences and how the work that we have already done could benefit them.

This year we would like to get more in touch with local, national and international legislation on porter and tourism issues. (This implies a policy post).

Funding

We will apply for around 12 grants – all of which will be agreed and supported by our Cusco-based Porter Process and our international advisory group. We don't know what grants these may be yet.

An internet raffle of a painting kindly donated by Californian artist Diane Dandeneau will take place in March of this year, managed by South American Explorers and with half of the money going to the Inka Porter Project. We will need help from IPPG with the marketing of the tickets for this.

Some of the activities we undertake will also produce funds – which will all be spent within the project.

For more information, articles and news from Inka Porter Project, check www.peruweb.org/porters/news2003.htm



Porters Progress Report

Porters' Progress shows no sign of slowing down. This past fall was highlighted with a series of international presentations and fundraising events to support our work in Nepal. We outfitted 1,000 porters with warm clothing between September and December alone. Porters continue to support our programs and help us determine new directions and initiatives, and we are currently benefiting from the volunteer efforts of dozens of porters each week.

Our porter registration program has grown with great speed, and we have around 400 porters in our database. In Lukla, we will be strengthening this program and offering a free porter arrangement service from the airport that will seek to eliminate some of the tensions that have arisen between porters and the local security forces over access to the airport.

We are now gearing up to execute a series of cutting-edge programs that will address the needs of child porters in Eastern Nepal. This initiative is part of the International Labour Organization's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO/IPEC), and represents an amazing opportunity to build the capacity of our office. We will be focusing upon a selected few portering communities in the Khotang district, and will be implementing programs such as school reconstruction, micro-finance, and even a micro-health insurance service that will be, to our knowledge, the first of its sort ever implemented among semi-migrant populations.

Porters continue to attend our education and art classes in great numbers, and our HIV/AIDS program has provided 1-day intensive awareness courses to 170 porters, awareness programs for over 800 porters and community members. We have also distributed nearly 10,000 condoms to porters in the past six months alone.

Porters' Progress would like to thank everyone that has helped us accomplish our goals to date, including essential and ongoing support from the IPPG. We are currently seeking donations of sunglasses, pants, and warm clothing along with rock-climbing gear (harnesses, ropes, and shoes in particular) to help us establish a leadership program for porters in Lukla and Kathmandu.

Ben Ayers



भरिया बिकास नेपाल
porters' progress, nepal

**For more info on PP visit their
website www.portersprogress.org**

International Mountain Explorers Connection

**(formerly the Himalayan Explorers
Connection)**

In 2003, the Himalayan Explorers Connection changed the organization's name to the International Mountain Explorers Connection (IMEC), in order to reflect the work we are doing in developing mountain regions around the world. We are the same people, running the same great projects in more locations, just under a different name.

Porter Partnership Program

Director of Programs, Amanda Daflos, has been busy over the last several months meeting with many of the top U.S. tour operators and getting them to join the Porter Partnership Program. The program aims to assist trekking companies in developing porter guidelines and enforcing and reporting on the results. In 2003, Mountain Madness became the first U.S. tour operator to adopt the program and has listed the porter guidelines on their web page and put into motion several other components of the program.

In 2004, Mountain Madness will run expeditions in support of the porter program and simultaneously educate their clients about porter issues. Other partners include Adventure Life Journeys, Ferris and Shoeman, LLC, Global Humanitarian Expeditions, International Mountain Guides, Inc., KE Adventure Travel Worldwide and Tusker Trail and Safari Company.

Porter Assistance Project - Nepal

IMEC continues to loan our clothing and educate tourists in the offices in Kathmandu. In the fall trekking season over 60 porters were outfitted each month with donated gear from the clothing bank. Office manager Taranath has also signed up 25 local companies as members of the program. IMEC continues to work with the Kathmandu Environmental Education Project (KEEP), HRA, and IPPG and helped with an English Language for Trekking Professional class. Tara recently conducted a workshop on porter safety and outfitted porters on the Dhaulagiri Base Camp Cleanup.



Kilimanjaro Porter Assistance Project

Even in the rainy season, Kilimanjaro's Porter Assistance Project director, Peter Ling and assistant director Zamoyoni Selestine have been busy providing training to over 180 porters a month in English and 60 porters a month learning basic first aid. Zamo also recently climbed Kilimanjaro to meet and talk to porters on the mountain. In 2003, the Kilimanjaro Porter Assistance Project proudly outfitted over 700 porters.

Moreover, IMEC has been officially recognized by the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA) and Kilimanjaro National Parks Authority (KINAPA) as an important component in the Tanzanian travel and tourism industry. IMEC will work in conjunction with these organizations in an effort to develop porter guidelines. Finally, Dr. Jim Duff of IPPG visited the KPAP offices in January 2004 en route to climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro. IMEC was pleased to meet with Jim and discuss the progress of KPAP.

Porteadores Inka Ñan (Inca Porter Project)

IMEC is pleased to announce its recent agreement to team with Inca Porter Project (IPP).

IMEC and IPP will work as sister projects. IPP will help develop tourist educational materials,

such as a Peruvian version of a "porter poster" which promotes proper porter treatment. Additionally, IPP has developed pocket language resource cards, that help porters learn basic English skills. IMEC will distribute the poster and the language cards to tourists, members, and partners. IMEC and IPP will also offer "off the beaten path" trekking trips to Peru to educate trekkers and raise money for the program. IMEC will also accept U.S. tax-deductible donations for IPP.

Machermo Porter Shelter

IMEC recently assisted IPPG in getting a portable oxygen concentrator to be used at the Machermo Porter Shelter. This device provides oxygen to porters and patients who may be suffering from altitude sickness. In order to purchase this device, IMEC raised \$4000USD from a grant and individual donors. An IMEC member then carried the oxygen concentrator to Nepal, it will be ready for 2004 spring climbing season.

Porters for Porters

IMEC is always looking for "Porters for Porters". If you live in Colorado, Portland, OR or Seattle WA and plan to go to Nepal, Africa or Peru and can carry an extra bag, contact IMEC at info@hec.org

Amanda Dafloss
IMEC Director of programs

View Everest through the eyes of your porter

Porters Progress' founder Ben Ayers will be leading a special trek to Everest Base Camp in October to raise much needed funds for PP and the IPPG. This fresh approach to Himalayan trekking will see porters act as guides & cultural translators. The specially devised trek will provide trekkers an unparalleled insight into the Everest region as shared by your porters. The trip also plans to raise enough money to support the Machermo Porter First Aid Post for one year as well as many other Porters Progress projects.

The 20-day *Porters Progress trek to Everest Base Camp* aims to bring the landscapes of Nepal to life by encouraging interaction between trekkers and their porters. Each evening Ben will translate traditional songs, poetry and topics ranging from herbal medicine to shamanistic healing, providing the group with a deeper understanding of what the mountains and monasteries mean to the local people.

The actual trek will take an unusual route via the spectacular Ama Dablam base camp to Everest Base Camp. The itinerary includes an opportunity to visit the Porters Progress offices in Kathmandu & Lukla as well as schools and hospitals built by Sir Edmund Hillary's Himalayan Trust. A portion of the trek cost will be donated to PP as well as the Machermo Porter shelter.

If you want to know more contact Brad Atwal at sanfrancisco@ippg.net or enquiries@worldexpeditions.co.uk

Financial Reports 2003

If a country does not appear in this report, it means that no financial activity occurred. Reports are in the country's own currency, unless otherwise specified.

AUSTRALIA

Balance as at 31.12.02 AUD-\$573.33

Income

Donations

Treksafe	573.33
L Palmer	91.00
S K Ledet	80.00
C Anson	50.00
J G de Grout	200.00
I Harris	50.00
H Duratovic	100.00
A Tone	50.00
P Hewson	247.31
C Politt	250.00
C Hicks	100.00
P Crane	50.00
Mrs Graham	100.00
W Richards	50.00
J White	30.00
G & K Horcom	50.00
G Holdsworth	1000.00
J & M Rogers	100.00
S Magil	100.00
P Houlton	100.00
G Cowling	50.00

TOTAL \$2848.31

Expenses

Stationery, photocopying, stamps	88.75
Web site hosting	81.82

TOTAL \$170.57

Funds Transferred to Nepal

Machermo porter rescue post	500.00
Porters Progress	547.74

TOTAL \$1047.74

Balance as at 31.12.03 \$1630.00

PERU

Note: this is the IPPG financial report which has to do with IPPG ONLY.

For a full report, visit

www.peruweb.org/porters/news2003.htm

Balance as at 31.12.02 US \$0.00

Income

Donations

IPPG	\$500.00
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TOTAL \$500.00

Expenses

Printing and distributing a new flyer with guidelines for tourists – ongoing	100.00
Printing and distributing newsletter	100.00
Web-page hosting	30.00
2 months rent	200.00
3 months lunch for volunteers	70.00

TOTAL \$500.00

Balance as at 31.12.03 US \$0.00

NEPAL

Balance as at 31.12.02 NPR 72,903.71

Income

Donations

Himalayan Expedition Inc.	10,000.00
IPPG Canada	27,000.00

Others

Interest Earned	1,000.00
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TOTAL 110,903.71

Expenses

Administration	5,200.00
Newsletter print & distribution	17,000.00
Machermo Aid Worker advertisement	4,455.00
Treatment of Madan Rai	3,500.00

TOTAL 30,155.00

Balance as at 31.12.03 NPR 80,748.71

UK

Balance as at 31.12.02 £1200.49

Income

Donations

L Jones	32.00
G Moore	50.00
World Expeditions	341.00
C Bartlett	50.00
C McMillan	15.00
K Asthana	50.00
G & J Armitage	100.00
S Gilani	50.00

Fund Raisers

Nov 11 lecture	3280.00
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Other

Interest	3.46
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TOTAL £3971.46

Expenses

J Chittenden expenses	25.00
Administration	94.59
Catering at Nov 11 event	129.25
Community Action Nepal	600.00
Website	325.60

TOTAL £1174.44

Balance as at 31.12.03 £3997.51

Notes:

These expenses will appear in 2004

RGS Hall hire for Nov 11	£1281.75
Hopeful Homes for Orphans and Helpless Children (from the Nov 11 lecture)	£300.00
Porters Progress (from the Nov 11 lecture)	£600.00

USA

Balance as at 31.12.02 US\$187.00

Expenses

Prints and stationary	200.00
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TOTAL EXPENSES \$200.00

Balance as at 31.12.03 US\$-13.00

CANADA

Balance as at 31.12.02 \$393.53

Income

Donations

A & S MacKinlay	50.00
F Belanger	1000.00
E James	40.00

Fund Raisers

Mt. Royal College, Calgary	100.00
Edmonton Video Presentation	100.00
Banff Slide Show collection	50.00

Other

Interest Earned	0.68
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TOTAL \$1340.68

Expenses

Photocopying Brochures	17.21
Postage	10.41
Slide Production for show	48.69
Flyers re Machermo Post & Transport of O ₂ cylinders	75.00
Room Rental Banff Slide Show	40.00

TOTAL \$191.31

Funds Transferred To Nepal

IPPG, Nepal	500.00
Machermo Aid Post	1000.00

TOTAL \$1500.00

Balance as at 31.12.03 \$42.90





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

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Letters to the Editor (and others)

Wanting to help with Kili porters

Eighteen months ago, my family and I climbed Kilimanjaro via the Machame route. While there, we learnt of the difficulties porters and guides have getting hold of adequate weatherproof equipment, and we agreed that on our return we would try to organise some sort of charitable effort to help address this need. Having already decided on a project of this sort, further evidence of the need came when we learnt on the plane home that three porters had died of exposure on the same route the week after we completed it. (...)

My wife and I would be happy to devote some time and effort to doing something for Tanzanian porters and would be grateful if you could let us know how our efforts could be put to best use. I look forward to hearing from you. MN

Dear MN

There are a number of ways you can help. Cash can help fund initiatives on the mountain through the Kilimanjaro Porter Assistance Program and the new Kilimanjaro Guides and Porters Union (www.kilimanjaro-union.com). Publicizing the issue whenever possible is also a help. Finally helping by collecting clothing has proven very useful in the past. It is relatively easy to collect old fleece and wind-shell either from friends, the public or via outdoor shops. When you have a couple of kit bags we will put you in touch with someone going out to Tanzania who will ferry the gear. We have a number of contacts in the travel industry who are willing to oblige. This gear would be dropped off at the porter clothing bank in Moshi for labelling ready to loan out to porters. The Moshi Clothing Bank is short of gear at the moment. Thanks again for your interest

You want to help?

- Are you going to Nepal, Tanzania or Peru? Take some clothes for the porters: contact your country rep to see if he/she has gear waiting to be taken
- We urgently need a good quality digital camera for IPPG Nepal. Contact Jim Duff (info@ippg.net)
- Support the Machermo Porter Shelter and Rescue Post by a one-off donation or with a long-term financial support commitment. Contact Ian Wall (uk@ippg.net) or Jim Duff (info@ippg.net)
- Become an IPPG representative in your country! Contact Lyn Taylor (australia@ippg.net)

Editor



Maximum weight for porters

Having hiked the Machu Picchu Trail in Peru in July 2003, I was pleased to see that porters packs are weighed each day to ensure they don't exceed 25kgs.

Is there any possibility of this being introduced in Nepal? I'm sure one porter on my trek in Annapurna region in 2002 was carrying at least 40 kgs each day. KC

Dear KC,

This is a very good idea. In fact the weighing station system is also used on Kilimanjaro. However, in both situations bribery occurs to circumvent the weigh in. For this system to be implemented in Nepal the National Parks will need to be involved which means lobbying and discussion with the parks authorities. We will add this to our agenda.

Editor

Deaths on Kilimanjaro

7/6/03

I'm very sad to report that two porters died on Mt Kilimanjaro last Saturday. It was raining very heavy that night, I too was on the mountain. The porters did not have the proper clothing and they died of hypothermia.

The really sad news was that they were not part of a tour operation, but hired by the Kili park to move supplies to a higher camp.

I hope this gets back to them in a strong way.....

KG

Dear KG,

When I was coming down Kilimanjaro in February this year I passed the spot where these two porters died of hypothermia. There was a low cairn of stones in the shape of a cross which was strewn with flowers. Very sad indeed. On the way up the Rongai route a few days earlier I had seen the porters from another group crossing the saddle at 4200 meters in a steady sleet of rain and snow. They had no wind shell clothing and if there had been any wind they would have been in big trouble. Has anything been learned?

Companies say they give the gear to porters, but the porters sell it. IPPG suggests that all treks carry the correct gear for their porters and loan it out when it is needed (rather than give it) and retrieve it on the way down.

Editor

Purchasing insurance for guide/porters

I will be trekking in Nepal in May. I want to hire an independent guide. Can you tell me where and how I can purchase insurance for the guide/porter whilst I am in Kathmandu? TS

There are a few ways for an independent trekker to deal with insurance -

1) Hire the porter directly, but then go to a trekking company and have them arrange the insurance only.

2) Hire the porter, and bring him/her to one of our offices in Kathmandu or Lukla. We can arrange an insurance policy. Technically, we cannot be responsible for/involved in the direct hiring of porters as we are a non-profit, but we are more than happy to fill out the forms for insurance and see that the policy is completed successfully.

If you are thinking of hiring at the trailhead in Lukla, our office can arrange one there. If you are thinking of the same in the Annapurna area, then please see us in Kathmandu before you head to Pokhara - we can fill out the policy and then insert the name once you have hired the individual.

Good luck with your trek, and let me know if I can help in any other way.

Ben Ayers

**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 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 AND YOUR CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO IPPG TO YOUR COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE OR TO THE INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR (SEE PAGES 19 and 20). THANK YOU.



WWW.IPPG.NET

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

Thank you