A landscape photograph of a vast, flat, green and brown plain with mountains in the background under a cloudy sky. The foreground is a mix of green grass and brown earth. In the middle ground, there's a wide, flat expanse of land, possibly a dry lake bed or a plain. In the background, there are several mountains, some with snow on their peaks. The sky is filled with large, white and grey clouds.

# Responsible and Sustainable Tourism: Issues and Challenges

Seema Bhatt



Tourism is the world's fastest growing industry and in recent years, has come to play an increasingly dominant role in the economies of developing countries

The industry contributed 3.7 % to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and has emerged as major source of employment

The demand for ecotourism and nature-based holidays is expected to double and even triple in the next 20 years

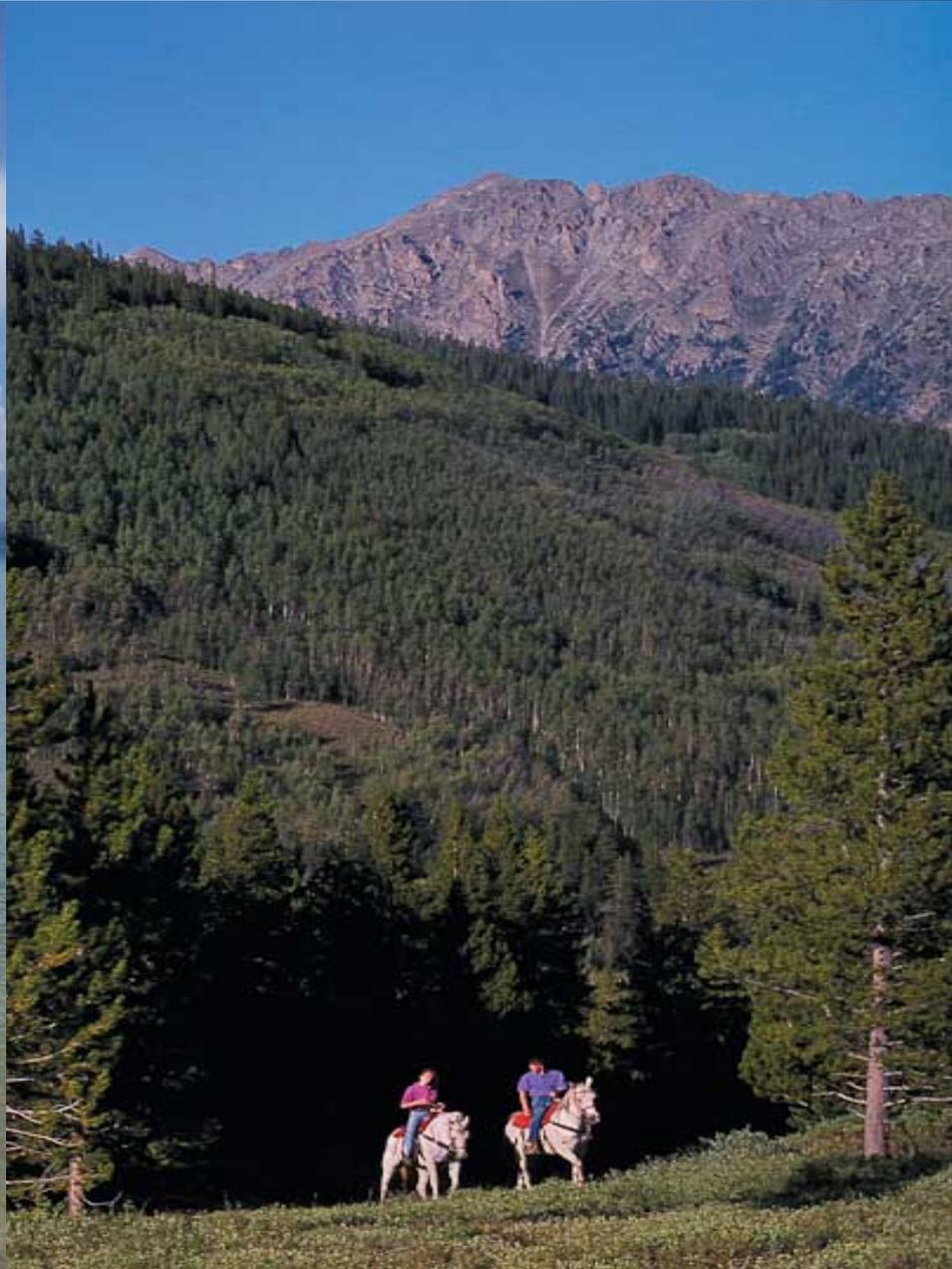
**Travel is an Age-old Practice the World Over**



# Pilgrimage to religious sanctuaries



# Recreation



# Adventure Tourism



# Wildlife Tourism



# The Conflict: Tourism, Conservation and the Community



# Impacts

## Social and cultural change



People living in remote, isolated valleys have generally preserved their cultural identities

However, improvements in transportation and communication, particularly satellite television are affecting traditional social and cultural structure

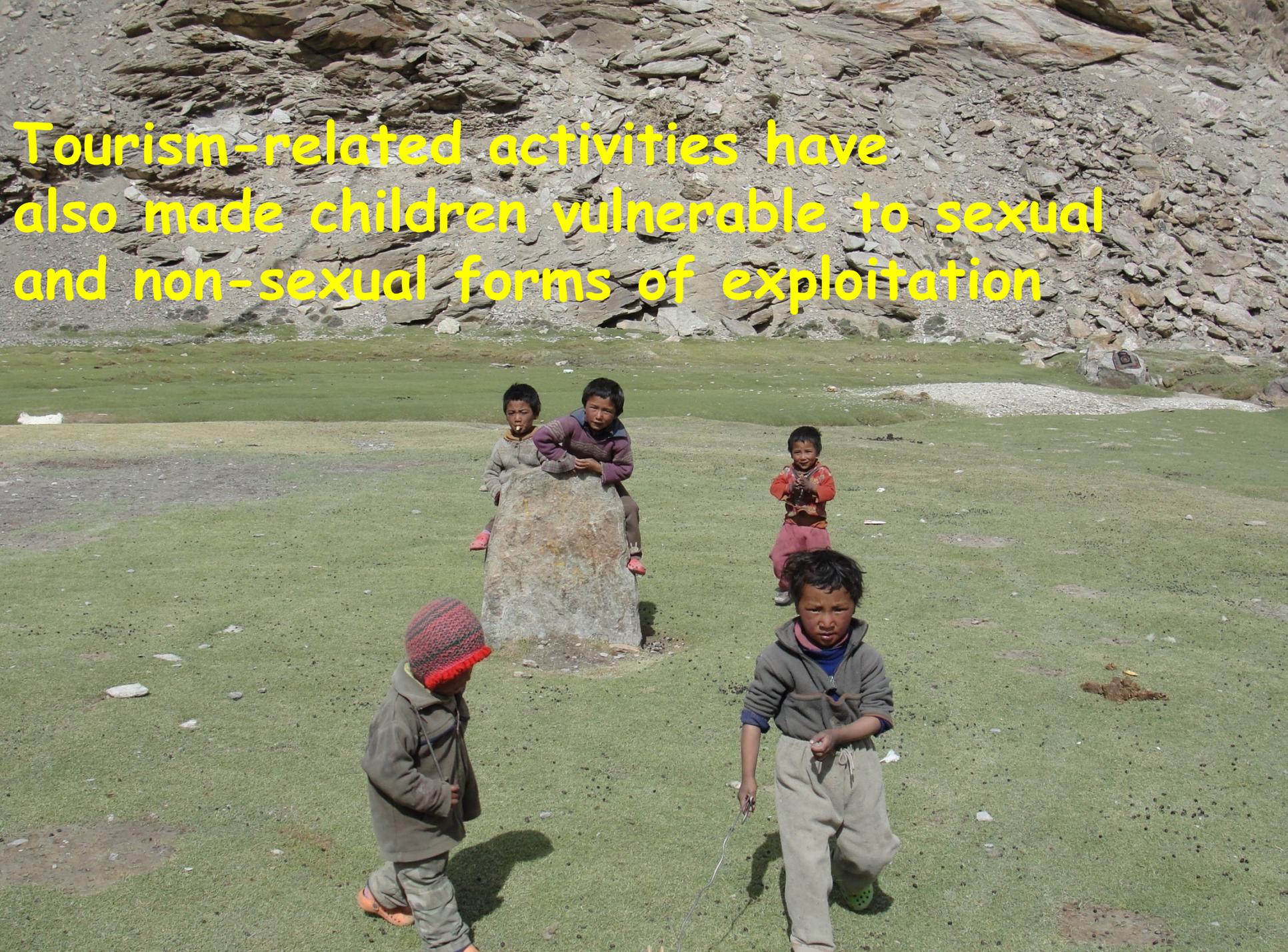
Tourism is linked to people and depends on people

However, the current tourism model is unable to develop into an economically and socially viable option for local communities

Tourism has played a significant role in privatization of common resources in tourism destinations, displacement of people and forest dwellers from their homelands to make way for hotels and resorts



Tourism-related activities have also made children vulnerable to sexual and non-sexual forms of exploitation



There are also problems relating to health, drugs, crime and trafficking of people



# Economic Impacts

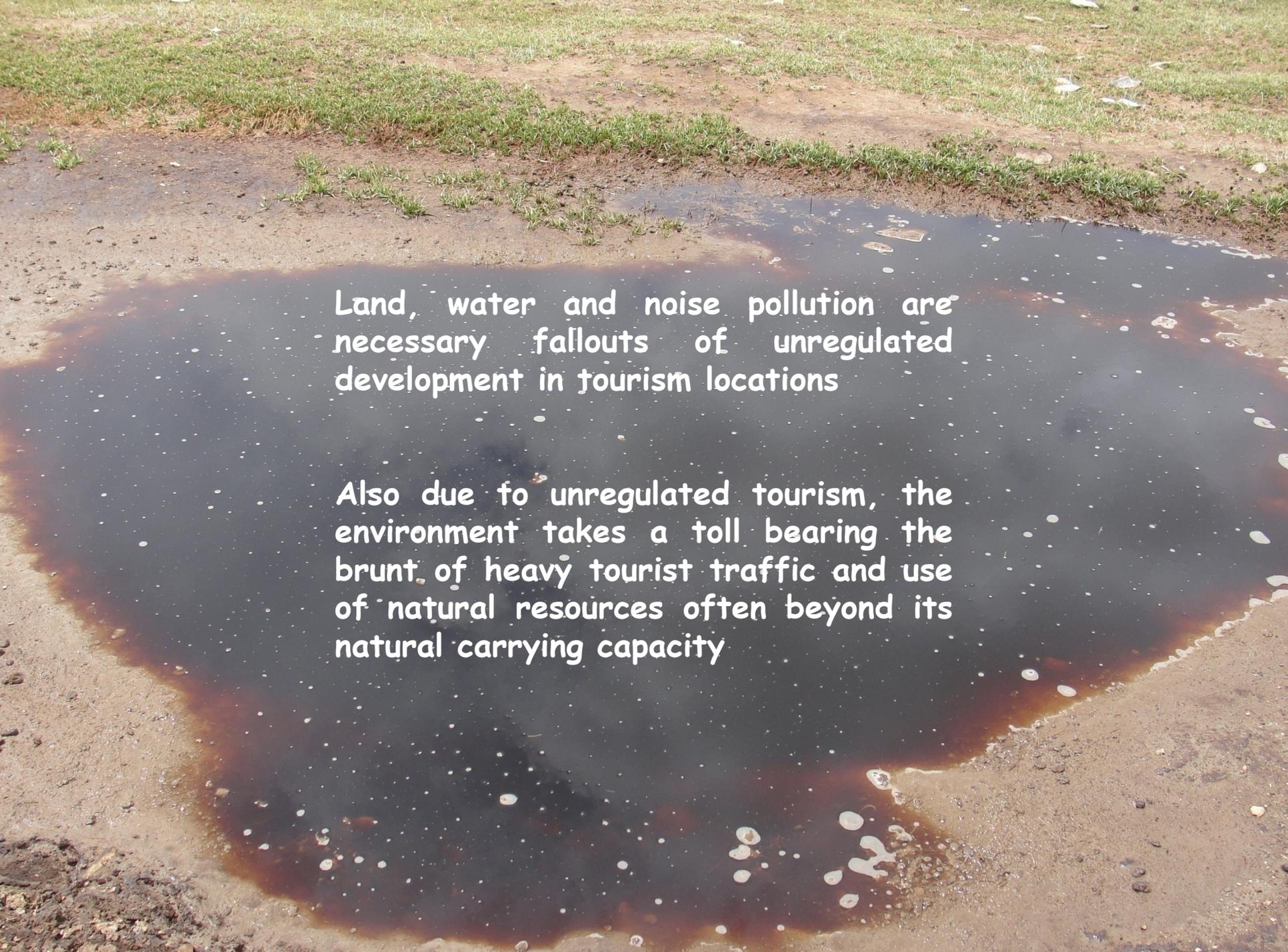
There are many less favourable economic effects of tourism such as inflation, leakages and dependency

One study estimates that on an average, of every US\$ 100 spent on a vacation tour by a tourist from a developed country, only around US\$ 5 actually stays in a developing country destination's economy

# Environmental Degradation

Deforestation has increased as a result of demand for firewood, extensive tree trimming in order to feed livestock, and construction of roads in the border regions



A large, dark, polluted puddle of water is the central focus of the image. The water is a deep, murky brown color, indicating significant contamination. It is surrounded by a mix of dry, brownish soil and patches of green grass. The puddle's surface is covered with numerous small, white, foamy bubbles, suggesting the presence of detergents or other pollutants. The overall scene depicts environmental degradation in a natural or semi-natural setting.

Land, water and noise pollution are necessary fallouts of unregulated development in tourism locations

Also due to unregulated tourism, the environment takes a toll bearing the brunt of heavy tourist traffic and use of natural resources often beyond its natural carrying capacity

**Increasing pressure from tourism has accelerated pollution**



**Disturbance to Wildlife**

**Poaching**





# Desecration of Architectural/Cultural Heritage

Khanderi Fort, Raigad, Maharashtra



The recognition of the ill effects of tourism led to the need to develop an industry that was sensitive to the environment and that which could provide some benefits to the local community. This is how the concept of 'ecotourism' came into being.

The term 'ecotourism' was coined by a marketing agency that was promoting Costa Rica as a rainforest destination in the early 1970s

However there is  
now a growing  
realization that  
ALL tourism needs  
to be responsible  
and sustainable

**Environmentally and socially responsible tourism should include:**

➤ **Minimal ecological, social and cultural impacts**

➤ **Education for the traveler/tourist for environmental awareness**

➤ **Direct financial and other benefits to the local community**

➤ **Respect for different cultures**

Tourism if carried out appropriately has the potential to help conserve the ecosystem where it is practiced as also provide local communities an alternate source of income and thus improve their livelihoods. It can thus be looked upon as a tool for sustainable development



**Responsible and Sustainable Tourism does have the potential to promote rural heritage for rural development and employment**



**It can also be an important tool for conservation education and awareness**



# The Changing Face of Tourism

The realization of negative impacts is resulting in the practice of responsible tourism



# Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Rajasthan







RENTAL RICKSHAWS FOR TOURISTS  
CONTACT NO. 98765 43210  
RICKSHAWS AVAILABLE FOR RENT  
AT THE FOLLOWING RATES  
PER HOUR

# Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim







TINS, CANS, METAL

GLASS BOTTLES

CLOTH, BAGS, ROPES

PLASTIC

THERMO

CARTON, PAPER

PLASTIC

KCC YUKSANG

# Welcome to my Home!



Community-based Homestays  
The community-based homestay movement is growing across the country and is becoming an important source of livelihoods for local communities

Homestays offer an innovative and fresh opportunity to tourists.

# Hemis National Park, Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir





YARCHOK  
TIBET

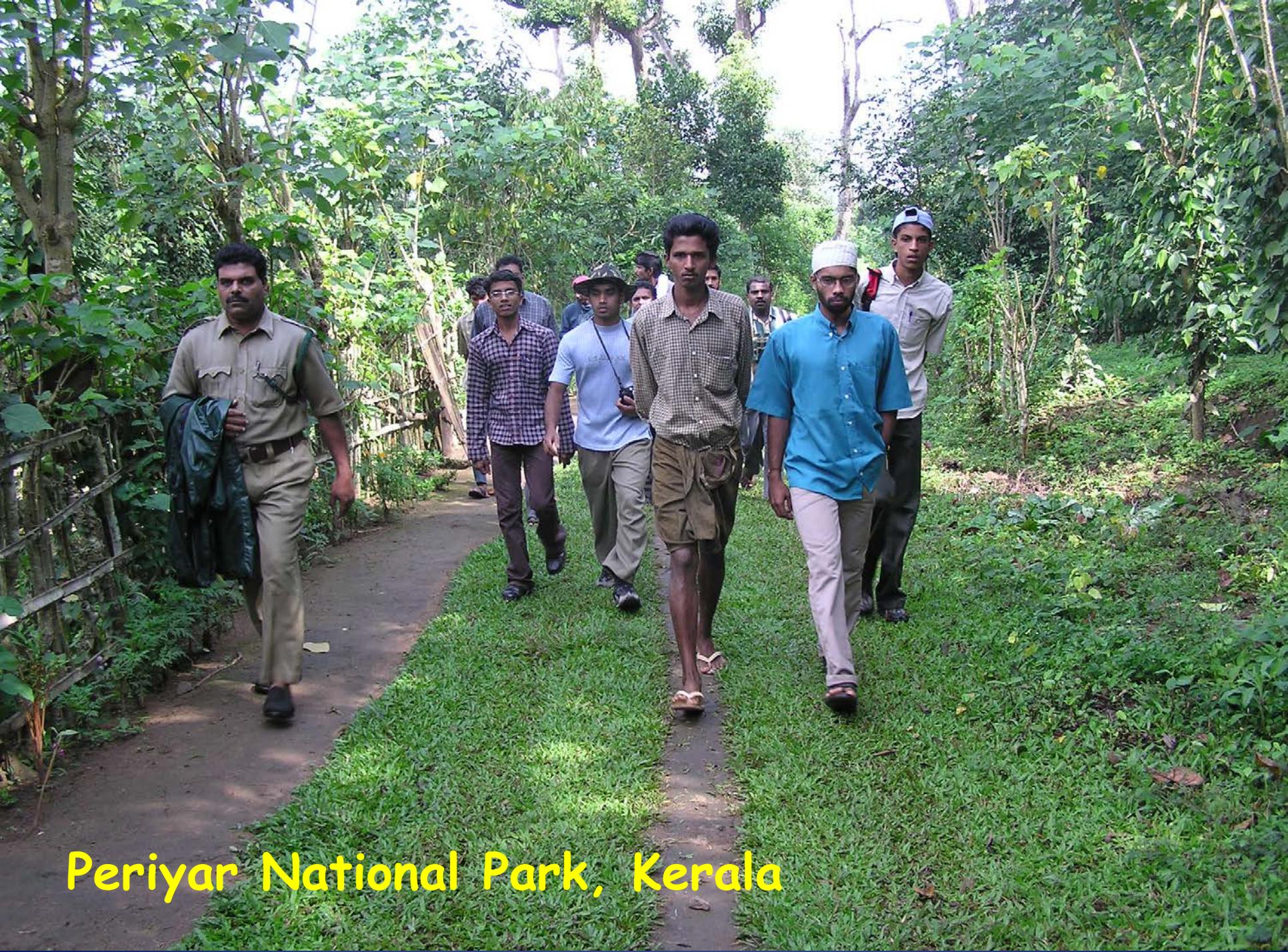
# Tso Moriri Lake, Ladakh



SONAM  
GENERAL SHOP  
KORZOK, TSPH 8181

ཨ། དེ་བྱ་མ་གྲོལ་ཁང་།  
SNOWCOCK HOMESTAY  
KORZOK





**Periyar National Park, Kerala**





പെരിയാർ നഗർ  
പ്ലാസ്റ്റിക് വിമുക്ത  
ഗ്രാമം...





**Hodka.Gujarat**

SHA AME SARHAD  
RESORT  
HODKA











# Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh





*Bugun liocichla*

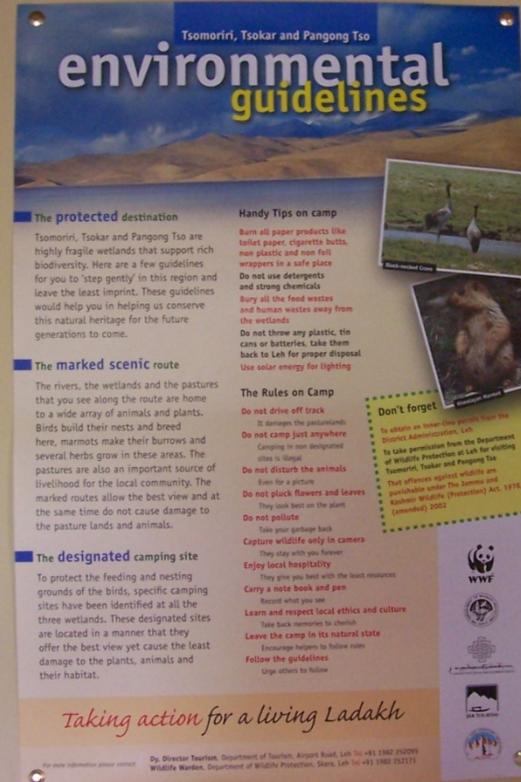


# Dorjee Raptan with the first Vacations-for-Conservation group



To succeed the following need to be kept in mind:

- Training and Capacity Building
- Education and awareness through interpretation material
- Feedback and subsequent improvements/Adaptive Management
- Setting Standards and Code of Conduct
- Carrying Capacity
- Marketing



## Visitor's Co-operation During Sanctuary Visit

- Visit Gir with prior reservation to avoid disappointment.
- Please observe the guest house rules and regulations.
- When you are in the forest wear light colored clothes which blend with the surroundings.
- Take permit and guide for sanctuary visit.
- Observe silence in the forest and listen to birds and animals calls. Preserve their life style.
- **Night visit to the sanctuary is strictly prohibited & punishable.**
- Do not disturb wild animals by blowing horns, playing music or talking loudly.
- You are a guest of Gir. Don't litter. Keep Gir clean and healthy.
- Don't keep food during sanctuary visit.
- Wild animals have a right to live and right of way here. Respect their right. Do not feed or chase them.
- Do not light fire. A small negligence can create a big tragedy.
- Smoking is strictly prohibited during sanctuary visit.
- Taking fire arms inside the sanctuary is strictly prohibited.
- Payment is accepted only in Indian currency.
- Don't throw plastic, polythin bags, water bottle etc. during sanctuary visit.
- Don't be tempted for wildlife " Darshan " unauthorized.
- Don't keep private wireless, walky talky or same type handset during sanctuary visit, otherwise punishable.

- By Order













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