Responsible Tourism broadly covers “The practice of low impact, educational, ecological and culturally sensitive travel that not only benefits local communities and host countries but also conserve and preserves their nature, heritage, art, lifestyle and practices”.

Objective of the workshop

With the increase of tourism, the threat to the environment and the local communities is naturally heightened. In order that tourism operates in harmony, supporting conservation, environment and communities; the concept of ecotourism and responsible travel needs to be embraced. In 1998, the Ministry of Tourism very proactively brought out policy and guidelines for the development of ecotourism in India and now is supportive of initiatives involving government and private sector to achieve sustainable tourism.

The first step towards ensuring responsible and sustainable tourism is to make stakeholders aware of what this type of tourism entails. In an attempt to build capacity of various stakeholders, Ecotourism Society of India (ESOI) has been involved in a series of workshops all across the country for the past three years with the encouragement and support of Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India as well as State Govts. in partnership with WWF-India, and is now holding its tenth workshop in Guwahati on March 23-24, 2012.

The workshop aims at setting corrective and curative measures with regard to TOURISM practices with ecological sensitivity and conservation of nature and community development in the North East Region. The challenge for the tourism service providers is in implementing environmentally responsible and sustainable tourism practices. These practices will not only create a lighter footprint but will support local communities and conserve the environment.

Welcoming the event, Mr. Anurag Singh, MD, Assam Tourism Devt. Corpn. said ‘I am quite happy that Eco-tourism Society of India has decided to conduct a workshop on Ecotourism in Assam. I am quite sure that the outcome of the workshop will help a great deal in shaping the broad framework of the Eco-Tourism in Assam. We need to focus on deciding important issues related to Eco-tourism policy for the state and most importantly, its best implementation’.

Workshop Schedule : March 23, 2012— Inaugural 10am-11:30am
Technical Sessions: 12 noon till 6:15 pm
March 24, 2012— 9:00 am to 2:15 pm
Venue: Greenwood Resort, G.S.Road, Madhab Nagar, Khanapara, Guwahati
(registration fee applicable for attending technical sessions)