



Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge – Community Support Partnership

Under our ethos of **Regenerative Tourism** we aim that all our operations should impact minimally on the natural environment; should respect and enhance the cultural integrity of local communities; should derive a sense of place to contribute to mutual understanding between cultures – so that our community can learn about our guests and *vice versa* in a spirit of mutual respect and friendship to enable authentic and transformational experiences for all involved. Finally, that we should work to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the area in a sound manner. We should be responsible in terms of care for the widest scope of stakeholders – guests, staff, local and national community, shareholders, etc; that we should give at least as much as we benefit, as individuals, an operation and as an organisation.

Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge ensures that it is an active partner in the local community. One of the key principles of regenerative tourism is that visitors to a country should contribute at least as much as the benefit they derive. We believe this is sound business practice and are honoured that our guests have been active partners in a diverse range of community support and conservation programmes.

We work closely with local organisations in the adjoining villages, always aiming to respond to the requirements of the community. Our focus is on health, education, and the local environment. We seek to bring together village needs with organisations or individuals best suited to provide environmentally sound and sustainable solutions.

Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge has a dedicated local employee who leads our Community Support Partnership Programme. We aim to ensure that this is community-based (hence a local employee from the village) and community-led, so that the tail does not wag the dog. The programme partners with the community in implementing the community vision for socio-economic development.

Education: as well as an annual grant to Shiva Shakti Primary School that supports an additional teacher, the lodge partners with the school and award-winning responsible volunteering agency, [People & Places](#), to provide volunteer teachers to mentor local teachers and strengthen their English language and teaching skills. We also provide ad hoc capital funding for school infrastructure development. In 2019 we facilitated a pilot project for [Hello World](#) computer education hubs in Shiva Shakti School and in an isolated village settlement.

TIGER MOUNTAIN POKHARA LODGE, REGENERATIVE TOURISM

Environment: the lodge provides an annual grant – a combination of wayleave and donation – to the Community Forest User Group for their conservation and forest management initiatives and also ensures the lodge guides are available to assist with technical wildlife matters. The lodge is an *ex officio* member of the Forest User Group. We are currently exploring ways to assist with waste management – particularly plastic waste – working to liaise with the municipality and community groups to see how we can enhance the natural environment.

Health: in the past the lodge has also funded community health initiatives and supported the construction of a Red Cross hall for emergencies, training, and meetings.

Community Groups: funding has also been given for the construction of Women's Group meeting halls, capital funding to Amar Jyoti Secondary School for expansion of school buildings, disaster relief after the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake and similar works.