

tourism infocus

Winter 2008/9

Campaigns

Positive developments for host communities

Local voices

Stolen lands in Grenada

Dilemma

Conflicts within tourism in Ethiopia

Dubai, advertised as the Great Arabian experience, hosts over 5 million visitors a year and has exploded as a tourism destination. The palm islands are the three largest man-made islands in the world and support luxury hotels, marinas and water theme parks. With tourism disturbingly far from reality, is it any wonder that Versace has plans to reinvent the beach experience?



Ice cold in Dubai?

I thank you for voicing your opinion regarding Dubai and the press coverage in response to Versace's ridiculous plans to construct a refrigerated beach, with an under-sand cooling system, refrigerated swimming pool and giant fans creating a breeze effect.

It is the responsibility for us humans to take care of what Allah has given us. We must not stay silent when greed raises its ugly head, as in this instance, with the Versace beach and with many of the other bizarre and resource-hungry tourism developments in United Arab Emirates (UAE). I am an Emirati myself and sadly we are demobilised when it comes to issues like the environment. But I have hope that there are many ways to bring tourism to a country which do not hurt the environment and threaten wildlife.

I and the future leaders of the UAE believe that in time we will have strong organisations of our own to prevent decision-making solely

based on short-term economic profit that destroys our habitats whilst bringing the Emirati people very little benefit. On behalf of the Emiratis that support a sustainable future we thank you.

Jalal Jamal Majid BinThaneya
Voluntary sector campaigner

Editor's response

Versace's plans for a refrigerated beach, along with Tourism Concern's comments on the matter, were reproduced in articles and blogspots all over the world. This prompted Versace to contact us to reassure us that no development would take place unless it could be proven to be completely environmentally sustainable. However, cooling down Dubai beach temperatures that reach 40-50 degrees sustainably will be a real challenge – even for Versace!

If you want to read more about this story, visit: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article5338099.ece>

Tourism for good

I have read about your work and personally I cannot see one place that has become a tourism spot without improving the life of the locals. I have visited a varied and substantial amount of places and I think that Tourism Concern is idealistic and not realistic about the way that some people were living before "having visitors"!

I have a Tunisian background and there are some places in the south of Tunisia that were in the middle of nowhere and would, for sure, have stayed like that. But now with tourism intervention, they are places where the locals are making a very good living out of the industry, through jobs and the price of land increasing. Nothing is perfect – if you ask locals if they would like a luxury resort such as the Hilton near their village, they would jump at the chance and even campaign to get it.

I think that your organisation is characteristic of the trend towards political correctness and that you are not aware that benefits to locals are relative. I feel that you are hypocritical and patronising, like the person who travels a very long way in a 4x4 to buy their "organic meat and vegetables".

Hugo Draks

Editor's response

We welcome your comments. We are certainly not saying that tourism does not bring benefits. In fact we think that implemented fairly and through the communities themselves, tourism has the opportunity to benefit local economies hugely if so desired. But we receive reports globally from local people and organisations who say that they are not benefiting from tourism and more than this that their basic human rights are actually being denied. Therefore Tourism Concern's aim is to ensure that these voices are heard in an industry where otherwise they might fall on deaf ears.

Front cover pictures, clockwise: The relationship between tourists and the Mursi peoples involved in tourism is becoming increasingly strained and is complex. With the Mursi feeling that their culture is being commodified and tourists intimidated by the Mursi, action is needed to enable a fair exchange for both sides. (O. Olibwe/www.mursi.org); With a Kayan museum being set up by locals outside the main villages, positive developments are taking place in Northern Thailand. But there is still a long way to go before the Kayan women gain real freedom. (Antoni Graceffo); Orange tape placed on branches is a survey indicator to enable the start of construction of Phase II of the Bimini Bay tourism development which has caused local and international uproar. (Jana Rajnohova); The pottery lip-plates worn by the Mursi women in their lower lips have made them a prime attraction for tourists and helped to sustain a view of them, in guidebooks and travel articles, as an "untouched" people. (O. Olibwe/www.mursi.org)

editorial

TOURISM IS NOT EXEMPTED FROM THE

failing economy. The UN World Tourism Organisation has stated that fewer long distance holidays will be taken due to the economic downturn and that more people will be potentially holidaying in the UK. We need to make sure that, wherever our holidays are based, more emphasis is placed on fair trade and sustainable tourism and in benefiting local people, not less.

But it's not all doom and gloom. In this edition of *In Focus*, we are including some positive developments that are taking place as a result of our campaign work both past and present.

Tourism Concern continues to work hard behind the scenes with the people we campaign on behalf of, even after the public side of the campaign has come to a close. We carry on supporting them to improve conditions and help protect their human rights.

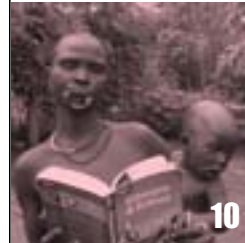
On pages 4 and 5, we highlight some of the improvements in the situation for both the people of Bimini and the trekking porters in Tanzania. Tricia Barnett, Director of Tourism Concern, got a powerful, first-hand insight recently on a visit to Tanzania when she saw how the Kilimanjaro Porters Assistance Project (KPAP) was working with porters to improve their working conditions. Although there is still a long way to climb, KPAP is on the right track.

On page 6, we follow progress for people living in the Maldives where a shift in government has brought about new opportunities for radical change to the building blocks of tourism. In the past, tourism has been corruptly controlled by government leaders who have also been owners of hotel developments. Now with the slate wiped clean and the right commitment, tourism has the potential to be utilised for the benefit of the Maldivian people as a whole rather than to profit only the chosen few.

On page 7, we also hear about the progress with the Kayan refugees from Burma living in northern Thailand where they have, at last, been allowed freedom of residence. Hopefully this will be a far cry from their past experiences of being trapped in tourist villages set up to exploit the brass-necked women of their communities.

Tourism Concern does get results. But there are still many communities in tourism destinations that need your help. Support our campaigns by taking action. Join our Campaigns Action Network and receive all our campaign news. It is a simple way to keep abreast of new developments. To sign up, visit our website and go to the 'Get involved/Campaign with us' page. It really helps to make a difference.

Kelly Haynes
Editor



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Tourism Concern wishes to state that the articles published in In Focus represent the individuals' opinions and do not necessarily represent the views of the organisation.

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Victory in the battle for Bimini...

Tourism Concern takes on diverse challenges as it campaigns to fight against exploitation in tourism. Two long-standing campaigns have resulted in some positive developments.

There is still much to do, but we're very proud to report that on the island of Bimini in the Bahamas and on the slopes of Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, things are beginning to change for the better.

Local campaigning groups in Bimini are celebrating a government directive to establish a marine protected area (MPA) in the north of the island, putting a halt to destructive plans to expand further the Bimini Bay Resort.

Phase II of the resort development would involve building a golf course, part of which would fall inside the MPA boundary. The golf course would require mangroves to be destroyed and cause pesticides to leach into the fragile marine environment.

However, after a hard fought battle by local people, supported by Tourism Concern, the Bahamian government has concluded that the mangroves in North Bimini are vital to the island's ecosystem and local fisheries, as well as tourism. The MPA entails strict environmental safeguards and places limits on human activity. This should prevent the golf course from being approved. The plan will support local livelihoods by allowing some traditional fishing within the area. A final decision will be taken following completion of an independent environmental impact assessment, but local groups opposed to the development are cautiously optimistic about the outcome.

...but problems for workers remain

Bimini Bay Resort continues to employ cheap migrant labour instead of local islanders, despite a need for employment. Bimini District Council has accused the resort of failing to honour its commitment to train local residents for jobs. The resort has also reneged on a promise to re-employ Bahamian workers who were fired from its restaurant last summer. The Council has said that the interests of local people must be the government's priority in determining the future of the development.

Working conditions for resort staff also remain a concern. Local media have reported that employees fell ill after eating poor quality food prepared with rainwater caught in a rusted container. "Prison food is better than what is served in here," commented one worker at the resort.

Take Action Now

The people of Bimini still need your help in keeping the pressure up on the Government of the Bahamas to ensure that the MPA is fully implemented and that the further expansion of Bimini Bay Resort is stopped. Write to the Bahamian government today. Details can be found on our website: www.tourismconcern.org.uk

Update: Porters in Tanzania

Tourism Concern's campaign to improve the rights of porters and highlight the appalling conditions they were working under got underway in 2002. The code we produced for tour operators highlighting minimum standards of working conditions for porters continues to have a positive impact on the lives of many porters today.

Tricia Barnett visited one of our partner organisations in Tanzania and brings you an update on the successes and challenges that face the trekking porters of Mount Kilimanjaro.



The Kilimanjaro Porters Assistance Project's (KPAP) focus is improving the working conditions of porters by the loan of donated clothing for climbing, offering porters classes in English, First Aid, HIV/AIDS Awareness and Money Management, and by educating the wider public.

THE KILIMANJARO PORTERS ASSISTANCE PROJECT (KPAP) IS WORKING TIRELESSLY TO improve conditions for trekking porters. Based on Tourism Concern's code of conduct, KPAP's Guidelines for Proper Porter Treatment is central to their work. This includes many of the guidelines we introduced for minimum standards for porters, including adequate clothing and equipment, transparent tipping procedures, loads not exceeding 25kg, and wages set at Tsh 6,000 (£3.20) to Tsh 8,000 (£4.30) a day in agreement with the Kilimanjaro National Park and the Tanzania Association of Tour Operators.

But KPAP have told us that there is still a long way to go. They have surveyed over 2,000 porters on their working conditions. The survey revealed that only 20% of local companies climbing Kilimanjaro pay the mandatory wage and neither government institutions nor the private sector are willing to enforce the distribution of the minimum wage. Karen Valenti, Programme Manager of KPAP, stated: "Some porters have to pay a bribe of \$5-15 to the guide in order to be hired for a climb. Some only eat one meal per day and are still forced to carry more than the 25kg in weight."

To improve conditions further, KPAP has initiated a partnership programme, which brings together local trekking organisations which adhere to the Proper Porter Treatment guidelines and overseas companies concerned about porters' working conditions. KPAP disseminates information about these responsible operators to the general public, specifically targeting climbers and overseas tour operators climbing Kilimanjaro.

Karen Valenti explained: "Monitoring of the local companies is essential to ensuring that the actual practices on the mountain reflect what is professed by the company. This includes porter interviews, observation during climbs and surveying the climbers. Only then can we and the trekkers be confident that porters are working under adequate conditions."

Take Action Now

For further information on KPAP, visit www.kiliporters.org.

For a list of the companies adhering to KPAP's guidelines for proper porter treatment, check out Tourism Concern's website.

campaigns

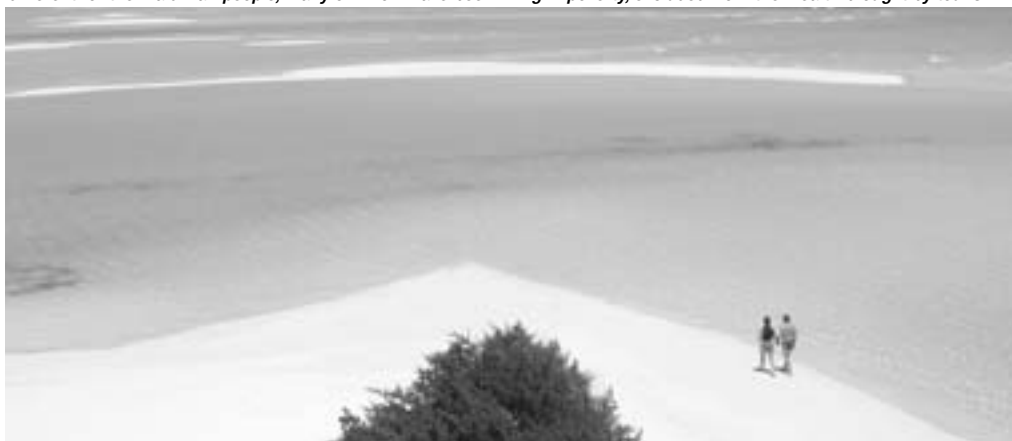
Maldives: Rebuilding tourism

For several years

Tourism Concern has been conveying a very unpopular message: that the Maldives, always promoted as a fabulous paradise, was anything but. The extensive coverage that travel editors and journalists afforded the country in order to lure tourists to its shores simply served to line the pockets of an oppressive dictatorship.

Meanwhile, the vast majority of the population lived in abject poverty. We were constantly challenged by the fact that travel editors were reluctant to refuse all-expenses-paid invitations to write about the luxury resorts of the Maldives. Happily, the Maldivians themselves have now brought about positive change.

With tourism based around secluded resort islands, the Maldives may sound like an idyllic holiday destination. But in reality tourism has meant exploitation and poor working conditions for workers. With a new government in power, will life be different for the Maldivian people, many of whom have been living in poverty, excluded from the wealth brought by tourism?



Dhivehi Observer

FAMOUS FOR ITS BEAUTIFUL NATURAL ASSETS, CRYSTAL CLEAR sea, idyllic islands and white sandy beaches, the Maldives have become a magnet for Europeans seeking the perfect getaway. However it hasn't all been paradise for the Maldivians!

In October 2008, the Maldives witnessed their first multi-party presidential elections, concluding a long and painful battle for democracy. In late 2008 opposition leader and former Amnesty Prisoner of Conscience Mohamed Nasheed was elected in the country's first free and fair presidential elections. President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, leader for 30 years, was peacefully ousted.

Through a system of nepotism, corruption and patronage, Gayoom and his cronies largely enjoyed the benefits from the billion dollar tourist revenue while resort workers were denied basic human rights such as freedom of expression, assembly, trade unions, or decent wages.

It remains early days, but there are positive signs that the new president is committed to improving the lot of resort workers through introducing minimum employment standards and the peaceful resolution of workplace disputes. The new labour tribunal and the newly introduced minimum wage are a welcome step forward in the modernisation of the country, its labour laws and the tourism industry. There are signs that a new style of

tourism is about to be established in the Maldives in the form of local resorts and small hotels opening on the inhabited islands for the first time – bringing direct benefits to the islanders. Until now, tourists have generally been limited to particular uninhabited islands in the Maldives.

Challenges remain for the new president, namely the need for a taxation system enabling tourism income to benefit the entire country, meeting the high expectations of resort workers, and the formation of unions to represent fully the interests of workers in the tourism industry.

The vital help of international NGOs like Tourism Concern, Amnesty International, Article 19, IMS and Reporters Sans Frontières has been instrumental in encouraging the transition from autocracy to liberal democracy in the Maldives and in highlighting how the benefits of tourism were not being passed on to the people of the Maldives.

David Hardingham
Friends of Maldives (FOM)

FOM was formed in 2003 to expose human rights violations in the Maldives, and works with political bodies, international institutions and NGOs to pressure the government of the Maldives to respect human rights and good governance.

Costa Rica: Water turmoil turns to triumph

THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF COSTA RICA HAS RULED IN favour of the people of Sardinal, a small village in the north western Costa Rican province of Guanacaste, who have been fighting government plans to exploit local water resources for large-scale tourism developments.

Guanacaste, with glorious long white beaches, has attracted investors for over a decade now and is experiencing a construction boom. With dazzling speed the coastline, that a few years ago only hosted small fisher settlements and deserted beaches, is rapidly being turned into a 'tourist paradise' with big resorts and golf courses dominating the area.

Protests were held in the village of Sardinal, in the north-west of the province, to stop the construction of an aqueduct that locals fear would deprive them of one of their most precious resources – water. Guanacaste suffers from scarcity of water during the dry months from November to April. To meet the demand needed for tourists, plans were made to construct an aqueduct from a spring in Sardinal to hotel complexes with approximately 8,000 rooms situated nearby.



Mauricio Alvarez, FECON Costa Rica

Locals protest against construction of an aqueduct which will supply tourism developments with water. They fear it will leave locals without water and be an environmental disaster.

Placards state: 'A united people will never be beaten. Water is life, don't waste it!'

Local conservation organisations and villagers forced construction work to grind to a halt. Mauricio Álvarez, spokesman of FECON (the Costa Rican Federation for Conservation of the Environment) explains: "Local protesters are afraid that in the future there will be no water for them and their families and that priority will be given to the tourists. They wanted to be reassured before construction is completed that there will be enough water for the people in the villages and that they will be involved in the decision-making process."

Kayan refugees granted rights

A DRAMATIC SHIFT IN GOVERNMENT POLICY has seen increased rights and freedom for Burmese Kayan refugees in northern Thailand.

Previously confined to 'tourist' villages by virtue of the brass rings they wear around their necks, the Kayan women and their families have now, after 20 years or more in limbo, been given a choice between remaining in the villages and working as economic migrants, or entering the main refugee camp. Those that enter the camp are granted refugee status and become eligible for resettlement overseas. Exit visas have

already been granted to a number of Kayan who were previously blocked from leaving Thailand. This includes Zember, a young woman who removed her neck rings in protest.

At the village of Huay Pu Keng, projects to generate alternative means of income to tourism are slowly getting underway, including a fish farm and agriculture. Families from another village have opened a museum to inform tourists about Kayan culture. Eventually they hope to open a guest house on the site and there is talk of exploring further community-based tourism initiatives.

The Thai authorities are still pushing the area as a tourist destination. However, while many of the girls and young women have kept their neck rings, many have now chosen to remove them. This is a choice that they may not have felt they had a short time ago.

Although the situation for the Kayan remains complex and will take a long time to resolve fully, the recent tentative developments appear to be a clear step in the right direction. Tourism Concern will continue to monitor the situation.



Karenzi Student Development Programme www.kidp.org.uk

A museum for the Kayan peoples run by the local Kayan has recently opened 20 minutes away from their villages. They hope to build guesthouses for tourists, a positive step towards controlling their own tourism ventures.

Tourism Concern fights exploitation. This is because we recognise that our holidays are other people's homes. Our holidays should be as good for the people in the destinations we are visiting as they are for ourselves.

We frequently get harassed by locals without realising that it's often because they're not getting any real benefits from our holidays. On the contrary, those living in popular tourist destinations often suffer when precious resources, such as water, are diverted from agriculture into hotel swimming pools. People even get thrown out of their homes for new developments.

Tourism generates huge wealth and can be a force for good for millions living at destinations, but they receive little, with most of our money never reaching them.

Please join us to fight exploitation.

Your actions make changes happen!

Take Action on Costa Rica Now

Read more about the plight of the villagers on Tourism Concern's website and by watching a short video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZLpFNsW54A>

Four Seasons takes over Grenada

Development of the Four Season tourism resort has meant, according to Citizens in Defence of Grenada's Land & Heritage, the significant destruction of the Grenada Dove habitat and mangroves to make way for a bridge joining Mt. Hartman to Hog Island.

With construction already begun on the Four Seasons tourism development in some of the wildest parts of Grenada, locals have been left out in the cold regarding the decision-making process.

Sandra C.A. Ferguson of Citizens in Defence of Grenada's Lands & Heritage, a local opposition group tells us about the impact this will have on the people there...

The Hog Island/ Mt. Hartman Development Project in Grenada is being undertaken by Cinnamon 88. According to the Cinnamon 88 website, this development is 'a 400-acre southerly coastal tropical woodland development incorporating 55 private island residences, 115 beach front villas, 18-hole golf course, spa, tennis academy and a 124-room Caribbean-style hotel'. It boasts that it will be the biggest Four Seasons in the world. The development involves a national park and nearby Hog Island, a 70-acre island owned by a local family for four generations.

There are many controversial issues surrounding this proposed development. Hog Island, used as pasture land for animals, is also part of the National Park and Protected Areas system, a national landmark which borders a Marine Protected Area. There was no dialogue with the owners of Hog Island about the plans for using their land for the tourism development and the issue of compensation remains unresolved. The Marine Protected Area contains some of the most pristine mangrove forests left in the island, which serve as a nursery for approximately 70 per cent of the fish species fished in Grenada. Locals are asking: "Are more mangroves going to be cut down to create beaches and what about the livelihoods of local fishermen?"

Mt. Hartman is a national park and houses a dove sanctuary, home of Grenada's critically endangered species the Grenada Dove. However, the government amended the National Park and Protected Areas Act to facilitate the transfer of the ownership of the Grenada Dove sanctuary to Cinnamon 88. This action elicited much protest nationally and internationally, including a Save the Grenada Dove campaign which has highlighted significant destruction of the Grenada Dove habitat and mangroves to make way for a bridge joining Mt. Hartman to Hog Island. Despite this, Cinnamon 88 began land clearing in 2007.

Currently, in Grenada, all beaches are public. But locals are fearful about whether they will still have access to the beaches on Hog Island or whether they will be deterred by the presence of security measures as has happened on nearby privately owned Calivigny island. On Mt. Hartman access has already been cut off by the erection of a gate at the entrance of the public road.

We as locals have important questions which are not being answered. Did Cinnamon 88 get planning permission and if so, how? Was an Environmental Impact Assessment conducted and reviewed by a credible and competent team? Without any public consultation on this immense luxury development, there is now a feeling that locals are becoming strangers in their own country.

local voices

Roger Strachan operates the famous Roger's Bar on Hog Island which generates significant economic activity in the Woburn area. Some 20 years ago, he saw the opportunity which existed given that Hog Island was a popular recreation area for locals.

Eventually he set up a rustic little structure on the beach which came to be known as Roger's Bar, now a hot spot with locals and yachties who anchor in the area. He now faces losing his livelihood with no compensation, due to the resort development.

Incidentally, on the same site where Roger now operates his bar, the Mt. Hartman project website shows a poolside bar which will be named Roger's Bar! Yet the man who created Roger's Bar is being displaced, viewed as an obstacle, standing in the way of "progress and development".

Citizens in Defence of Grenada's Lands & Heritage is demanding action to ensure "local people's rights and lands are respected".



"I have been operating on this island for the last 20 years. I developed from scratch the ambience that now exists here. Why am I not being given an opportunity to partner in any development which will take place on this island? Why do I have to be displaced?"

Roger Strachan, owner of Roger's Bar

"Hog Island is our heritage. It should not be sold and developed but remain in its natural state and be accessible as a recreation spot so that my grandchildren can enjoy what I enjoyed."

Adrian Charles, resident of Woburn and great grandson of the original island owner, James Theodore

Adrian Charles is the great grandson of the original owner of Hog Island, James Theodore. He remembers when significant agricultural activity was conducted on Hog Island. One of the family members has considerable livestock on the island. No-one has spoken to them about compensation and relocation although they are legitimate occupants.

Adrian appreciates the importance of Hog Island as a recreational area to the locals, particularly since the loss of access to nearby Calivigny Island, now owned by Frenchman Georges Cohen and protected by security guards and dogs.

He appreciates that there are conflicts between development and nature. But Adrian believes that there must be a better way to develop the land, which respects the rights and heritage of local people.

Citizens in Defence of Grenada's Lands & Heritage

Citizens in Defence of Grenada's Lands & Heritage is a small pressure group of concerned individuals who got together in 2008 to campaign on issues concerning the environment, particularly on the plans to erect cottages along the Lagoon Park.

With less than 100,000 inhabitants, Grenada's people are sometimes intimidated to speak out. The aim of the group is to raise awareness and facilitate public debate on issues of development and the environment.

Last year its particular focus was on a number of mega-tourism projects and other initiatives which threaten Grenada's natural heritage and potentially trample on the rights of local people.

Email address:
citizensgrenada@yahoo.com

TRAVEL DILEMMAS

The Mursi live in the lower Omo valley of south-western Ethiopia, 100 km north of the Kenyan border. They number less than 10,000 and live within and between the Omo and Mago National Parks, which include most of their best agricultural and grazing land. The boundaries of the parks were not agreed with local people and, to this day, have not been legally established.

Hunting concessions in the national parks, establishment of a mechanised cotton farm and increased competition for agricultural and grazing land have all led to inter-group conflict and growing threats to Mursi livelihoods. Drought has also made it difficult for many families to feed themselves by means of their traditional mix of subsistence activities – cultivation and cattle.

www.mursi.org

To Go or Not to Go

For more than 20 years the uncomfortable situation between a remote tribe in southern Ethiopia, perceived as one of the last 'wildernesses' in the world, and the tourists who come to see the tribe has been recorded as being highly problematic.

Tricia Barnett explores the issues linked to tourism and the Mursi peoples....

THERE AREN'T TOO MANY PEOPLE WHO WILL WANT TO OR be able to visit the Mursi in the South Omo area of Ethiopia but those who manage to are in for an uncomfortable shock.

The Mursi women are known for the way some have had their lower lip pierced and stretched so that a clay plate can be inserted. As part of the process their lower teeth are removed. As with the refugee Burmese Kayan women whose necks are lengthened by placing one coil of brass upon another, this transforming cultural deformation attracts tourists to see, stare and witness.

Although traditionally the money economy and possessions were of little importance to their culture, money from tourism can fend off starvation in times of drought when the women need to buy grain. However, the men use the money to buy the sub-machine guns each of them carries and some to buy alcohol.

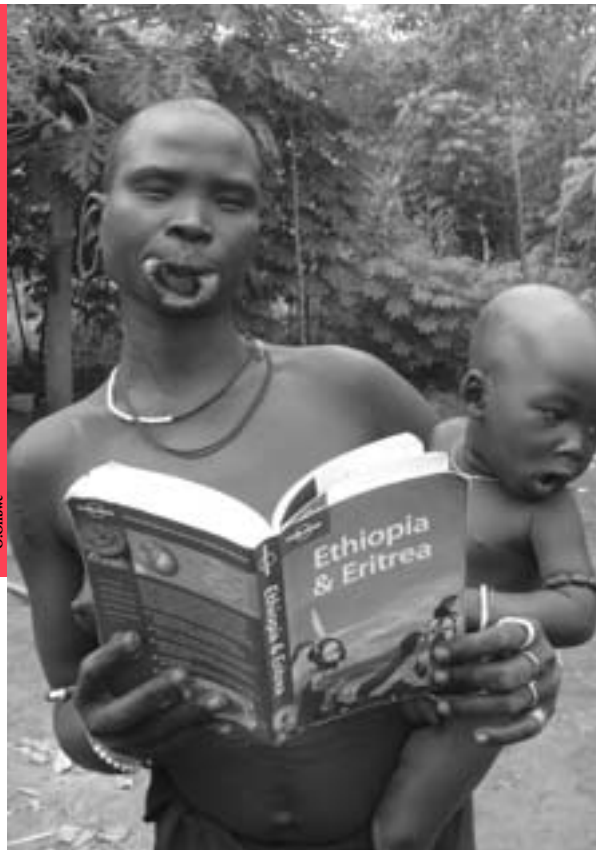
This income comes from those who visit them to take photographs. Tourists come from all over the world encouraged by documentaries about the Mursi showing hardy adventurers living with the tribe. Whilst I was there, so too were Mexicans, Taiwanese, Chinese and other Europeans.

The Mursi whom visitors meet are dressed differently and behave differently than those Mursi who are unaffected by tourism. As the four-wheel drive parks in shade in a settlement, dozens of Mursi of all ages dressed in eye catching adornments cluster around the vehicle and, without welcome or greeting, press tourists for money to take their photos. The price goes up to \$1 each picture and every visitor is hemmed in by pinching, poking, tugging people competing with each other as they demand that we take photos and give them money.

Having travelled more than five hours from the nearest town, visitors stay for about half an hour and leave, fraught and distressed and, sometimes, scared by the intimidating sub-machine guns. Tourists that I interviewed felt it was fair to pay for photos but that there had been no opportunity to have any reasonable exchange.

Recently the Mursi have begun to charge \$20 for each vehicle to park. The money I handed over to an elder for the community was snatched away before me by a Mursi militiaman.

Clearly there needs to be a better way to manage the situation and there are many factors involved. But until it's resolved, should we go? And should adventure documentaries be made that bring remote tribes and their lives into our homes?



O.Ollthwa

Please let us know what you think. Contact us at: info@tourismconcern.org.uk

supporters' area

Have fun whilst fundraising! Every pound donated to Tourism Concern is a vital contribution to our work.

There are many ways of enjoying yourself whilst fundraising for Tourism Concern. Why not use up your excess energy and get fit at the same time, by taking part in one of the many charity runs taking place around the UK this year?

Event	Where	When	Website
• Silverstone Half Marathon	Silverstone race track, London	15 March	www.adidashalfmarathon.co.uk
• Adidas Mini Marathon (11-17 yrs)	Old Billingsgate, London	26 April	www.minimarathon.co.uk
• Flora London Marathon	Greenwhich, London	26 April	www.london-marathon.co.uk
• Adidas 5k Women's Challenge	Hyde Park, London	7 Sept	www.womenschallenge.co.uk
	City Centre of Birmingham	7 Sept	www.womenschallenge.co.uk
	Sefton Park, Liverpool	7 Sept	www.womenschallenge.co.uk
• Bupa Great Edinburgh Run	Edinburgh City Centre	3 May	www.greatrun.org
• Junior/Mini Edinburgh Run (3-14)	Edinburgh City Centre	3 May	www.greatrun.org
• Junior/Mini Manchester Run (3-14)	Portland Street, Manchester	16 May	www.greatrun.org
• Bupa Great Manchester Run	Portland Street, Manchester	17 May	www.greatrun.org
• Junior/Mini Yorkshire Run (3-14)	Sheffield City Centre	5 Sept	www.greatrun.org
• Bupa Great Yorkshire Run	Sheffield City Centre	6 Sept	www.greatrun.org
• Junior and Mini North Run (3-14)	Newcastle	19 Sept	www.greatrun.org
• Bupa Great North Run	Newcastle	20 Sept	www.greatrun.org
• Junior South Run (7-14)	Portsmouth	24 Oct	www.greatrun.org
• Bupa Great South Run	Portsmouth	25 Oct	www.greatrun.org
• Just Walk	South Downs	9 May	www.just-walk.co.uk

You could run a marathon for the local people in India and Sri Lanka affected by the Tsunami, or a half marathon for the million displaced in Burma or walk for the exploited workers in the Maldives.

If you live in London, and want to take part in a run, there is a huge choice of events for all ages and levels. For the fittest, there is the famous London Marathon, which last year had 34,497 runners finishing the race. For those who find a half marathon enough of a challenge, there is the Silverstone race taking place in March. BUPA also organises marathons all over the country throughout the year, often both for youngsters and adults.

If you prefer a more leisurely pursuit, there is the Just Walk event that takes place every year on the beautiful South Downs, where you can choose hikes from 10-60 km, suitable for children, adults and families alike.

Workers Beer

If music, crowds and good times are more your thing why not volunteer to work for Workers Beer Company at one of their many festivals? From Glastonbury to Proms in the Park, there are plenty of occasions for you to fundraise for Tourism Concern, simply by working in one of the many beer tents. It's a great way to meet new people.

As Leigh, one of our past volunteers said: 'I didn't know the other volunteers, but at events like this everyone soon becomes good friends.'

For more information on these and other festivals you could volunteer at in 2009, please go to www.workersbeer.co.uk. If you would like to volunteer for Tourism Concern at a festival, please contact patrick@tourismconcern.org.uk or call 020 7133 3800. If you take part in a run or walk on our behalf, let us know so we can advertise it on our website: siobhan@tourismconcern.org.uk

Last year, Tourism Concern had volunteers at these events:

- Farm Festival, Kent July
- Glastonbury Festival June
- Rise festival July
- Leeds Festival August
- Reading Festival August
- Proms in the Park September

book review

The Good Tourist

Lucy Popescu
Arcadia Books, 2008
ISBN: 9781905147793
£11.99 pp300



Lucy Popescu clearly believes that there is a tourist audience for discussion of the civil and political issues and human rights of the countries that they visit. From the outset the book makes clear that the goal is not to rock the tourist boat and certainly not to discourage visitors from going to any of the listed countries.

Within human rights she focuses on the conventional civil and political rights and not on economic and social rights, which are so crucial for much of the tourist world. Thus she does not cover the big destinations of SE Asia, the Caribbean, or West Africa where the economic and social rights have more or at least equal prominence. She does not confront the reality of the global tourism industry, which is that vast profits are made at the expense of native populations, alongside environmental and cultural degradation, and that decades of such tourism have led to little real development.

Within this context there is a before and after reading list – the after focuses largely on history and cultural topics rather than anything to do with rights. Each entry also has a 'What You Can Do' section, with lists of agencies that deal with that country's human rights issues or charitable support, as well as civil action groups – sometimes the reader is encouraged to join the petitioning campaigns of such groups, for instance a 'prisoner of conscience'.

The book is well written and well intentioned and probably would be appreciated by its preferred target audience. However, it does not deepen our knowledge of human rights issues in tourism as one of the most efficient of the extractive industries. The 'good tourist' is someone who goes on a journey and not just on a holiday or to escape. This is not an ethical traveller's guide – but a guide to some ethical issues in the destination. At best the book hopes to begin a process by which the observing tourist eventually turns into an ethical tourist.

Neville Linton

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