



Ace the Himalaya Sustainability Report 2023-2024





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Executive Summary

Ace the Himalaya is pleased to present its Sustainability Management and Corporate Social Responsibility Report, showcasing our dedication to sustainable and responsible tourism practices.

As a responsible trekking company, we understand the critical importance of preserving the natural environment, empowering local communities, and safeguarding the well-being of our employees and guests. Additionally, we prioritize building partnerships with ethical and sustainable supply chains, further solidifying our commitment to eco-friendly tourism and responsible business practices.

Despite the significant challenges and dynamic environment, we remained steadfast in our efforts to advance the sustainability of our operations.

This report outlines our key sustainability initiatives, their outcomes, and our progress, focusing on implementation strategies and measurable key performance indicators (KPIs).



About Us

Established in 2006 AD, Ace the Himalaya is an idea that aims to share with the world the passion of travel in the Himalayan region and assist visitors in achieving their desire to create everlasting memories while focusing on eco-friendly initiatives and commitment to sustainability.

Our Sustainability Goals

- Minimize environmental impact
- Support local communities and economies
- Preserve and promote Nepal's cultural heritage
- Build sustainable awareness among clients and shareholders

Scope

This sustainability report outlines the sustainability practices of the company to enhance and promote sustainable and responsible tourism practices. This report comprises:

- i) How does our company organize excursion activities?
- ii) How often does the company participate in corporate social activities?
- iii) What activities the company has done throughout this period?

Similarly, this report presents an analysis of the role and involvement of our staff in sustainable and responsible tourism activities performed by the company basically in the area where they work. Furthermore, it helps to identify the gap in the sustainability practices of the company, if any, and then develop the best plan and guidelines for the next period.

Sustainability Highlights

- Katadyn Water Filters services to avoid plastic water bottle usage during treks.
- More than 300 kg of trail litter was collected and deposited at the Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC) or deposited at the garbage area.
- Tree Plantation Program
- LED installments and automatic lights inside the office area
- Faucets, spray jets, dual flush system, and signs are installed to conserve water
- Travelife training sessions for guides and staff
- Training sessions to guides for client protection
- Accommodation providers to promote eco-friendly practices
- Engaged with local communities and suppliers



Environment Sustainability

Paper Management

- We use electronic mail to send documents, trip dossiers, and other information.
- Our company only works with FSC and/or ISO-certified paper.
- We prefer Lokta paper where possible (e.g. for printing visiting cards), etc.
- Paper usage and purchases were monitored, while prioritizing more on eco-friendly alternatives.
- To minimize paper waste and increase efficiency we have adopted a customer online feedback form along with an online employment satisfaction survey.

Waste Management

- Distributed a pair of garbage bags to guides, ensuring proper waste disposal along trekking routes.
- A local private recycling company DOKO collects paper, glass, and plastic from the office area.

Energy Conservation

- We use energy-saving light bulbs (CFL / LED) and installed automatic lights across the whole office.
- We initiated the monitoring of electricity consumption within our office premises.

Water Conservation

- Glasses and water bottles are available at the office.
- We place towels in basins instead of paper rolls.
- We have installed flush toilets that have the option of half and full-flush.
- The wastewater is properly supplied to the government drainage system.
- We have updated basin and kitchen faucets along with jet spray in washrooms to regulate less water flow.

Tree Plantation Programs

- We have successfully planted 300 trees in degraded areas.

Cultural Preservation

- In our pre-trip meeting, we introduced our clients to the code of conduct and about do's and don'ts during excursion activities or trekking in remote areas.
- We educate visitors about the unique culture and preserve Nepal's heritage sites.



Sustainable Partnerships

- Every year we signed sustainability policies with Bhutan Scenic Tours and our local suppliers.

Social Responsibility

- Members, Guides, and porters are ensured with competitive wages, insurance, and safety gear facilitated for all guides and porters during trekking.
- Every year we collaborate with a local NGO company to support village development through donations, supplies, scholarships, and by providing employment opportunities.
- Recently, we initiated building hostels for village schools, contributed households for the women's committee, stationery for schools, and sports accessories for the local youth club.

Company Performance

Menstrual Hygiene Kit Distribution

We started our project Personal Hygiene Kits by distributing the kits to menstruation-age women in Ward 08 of Arughat Rural Municipality (RM). Our goal is to distribute the kits to a total of 7,750 women in Arughat RM. We have completed the first phase by distributing in Ward 08, and soon, we will distribute the kits in the remaining wards of Arughat RM. The women were very happy to receive the kits.



Fig 1.3: Our team explaining the correct way to use the reusable cloth pads



Distribution of Aluminum Sheets to Landslide Victims

A lot of hilly and mountainous regions face landslides at short intervals in the monsoon season. Manbu is among many such landslide-prone areas where a massive landslide occurred in Shyamchet, leaving a lot of locals homeless and devastated.

Ace the Himalaya in collaboration with Sambhav Nepal is always quick to respond to the need in events of such natural disasters. We distributed CGI roofing sheets to the 27 landslide victim families of Shyamchet, ward no. 1, Arughat Rural Municipality in the hope of providing a roof over.

Here we present a glimpse of the effects caused by the landslide and the CGI roofing sheets handover program.



Fig 1.4: CGI sheet handover program

Distribution of Stationery and Clothing to Government Schools

Ace the Himalaya actively contributes, both directly and indirectly, to improving the standard of living and education in mountain communities. This includes distributing essential items such as tracksuits, stationery, school bags, and books to Shree Bishnu Adharbhut Vidyalaya in Arughat-01, Gorkha, and other schools of the region.



Fig 1.5: Ace the Himalaya MD with schoolchildren

Staff Retreat

Ace the Himalaya celebrated its 17th anniversary with a vibrant retreat at River Fun Beach Resort, Kurintar. The event was a perfect blend of team building, thrilling sports, and educational workshops, including a hands-on session on water filter usage.

This celebration is a reflection of the bonds we've built and the adventures we've shared.



Fig 1.6: Activities during the Annual Retreat



Employee Welfare and Performance

Attended Wilderness first-aid Training

In February, our team participated in the Wilderness First Aid Course from 26th-28th Feb 2023 and 2024, organized by KEEP (Kathmandu Environmental Education Project) Nepal. All our employees including guides, porters, and administrative members, attended the program and hugely benefitted.

Employee's Feedback

In our retreat program, all the employees were given a few minutes to give feedback on behalf of the practices of the company so far. Here, all the employees provided feedback regarding what was working and how the company could do better the rest of the year, and the company highly valued the important feedback from the employees. Additionally, we are also practicing employment survey forms.

Reporting

This report is prepared by the sustainability coordinator and is a formal management communication document. Reporting is done annually by the sustainability coordinator and this will provide the whole team with increasingly clear ideas and plans for the further progress in sustainability and responsible tourism practices of the company.



Future Policies and Action Plans

- Completion of online Travelife training courses for office staff and guides
- Training all the guides to briefly introduce Nepal's landscape, culture, and history.
- Introducing carbon measurement processes and monitoring greenhouse gas emissions.
- Expansion of EV vehicles for pickup, drop off, and sightseeing.
- Repaint office area using eco-friendly paint which has zero volatile organic compounds (VOCs).
- Conduct sustainability training sessions for accommodation partners and inbound partners during the off-season.
- Promotion and practice of sustainable excursions to our excursions and accommodation providers.
- Basic training to guides about gadgets such as Go Pro and photography tips.
- Organize detailed training sessions and leadership programs for staff, guides, cooks, and porters.
- Eco-friendly office environment by installing more plants and practicing more sustainable alternatives.

APPENDICES

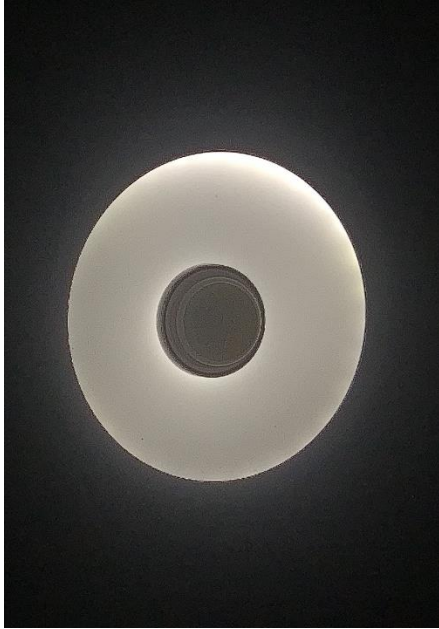


Figure 1: Automatic Lights



Figure 2: Fire Extinguisher inside office area



Figure 3: First Aid Kit inside office Premises



Figure 5: Inside office Lunch facility's



Figure 4 Indoor Plants inside office



Figure 6 : Promoting Nepali Cuisine, Hosting Farewell Dinner to Guests



Figure 7: Oxygen Cylinder provided during Trekking



Figure 8: Disposable Waste



Figure 9: Undegradable waste

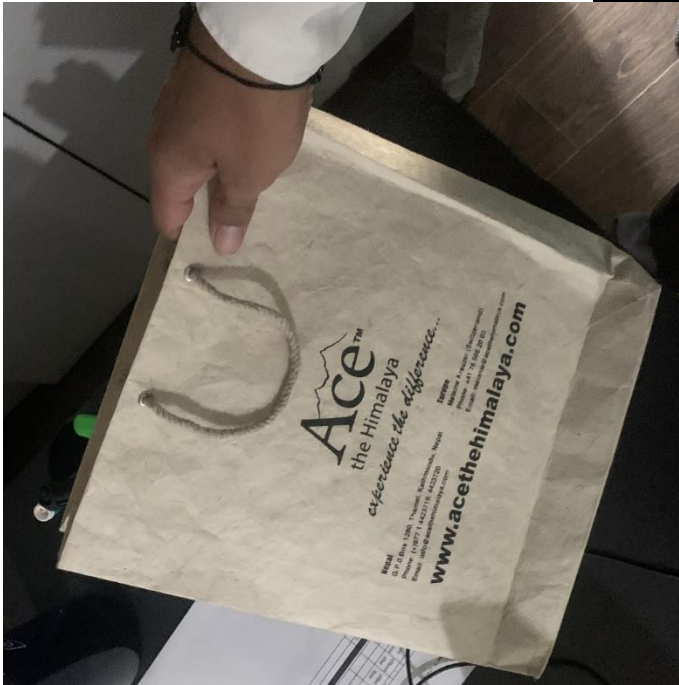


Figure 10: Eco-friendly Paper Bag

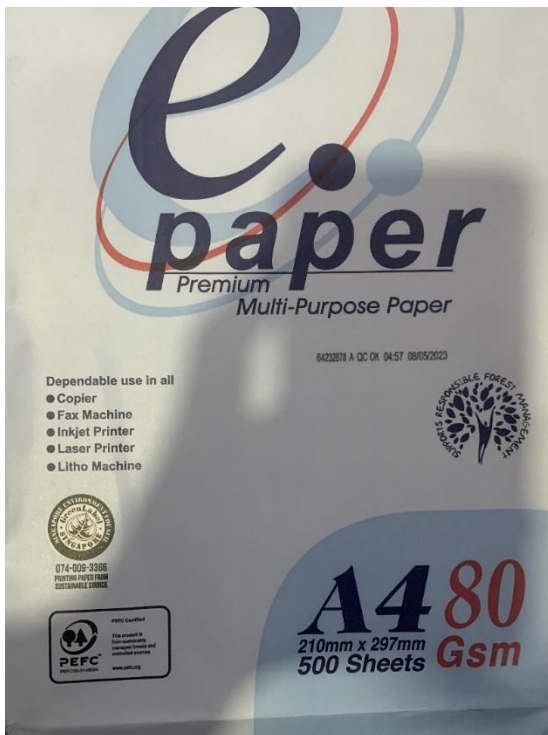


Figure 11: Eco-friendly paper used in printing



Figure 13: Katadyn Water Filters used in Trekking



Utilizing a water filter for clean drinking water on the EBC trail.



Figure 14: Annual Staff Retreat Program



Figure 15: Our Managing Director giving training and Insights to Employee and guides



Figure 16: First aid Training for Guides



Figure 17: Portable Hyperbaric Bag Training



Figure 18: Our Own Customized Garbage Bag

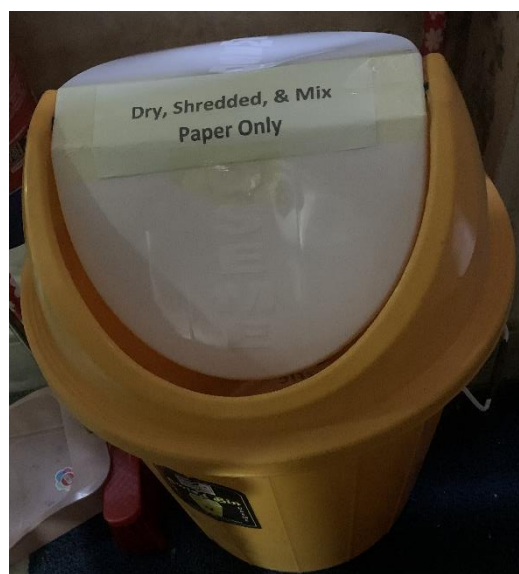


Figure 19: Paper Only Waste Segregation



Figure 8 Personal Development and Lesson from the Experience workshop



Figure 7 Appreciation from Rotarty Club of Mount Everest Lalitpur



Figure 19: Sustainable Volunteer Tourism



Figure 20: Tree Plantation Program




Figure 21: Personal Development Workshop



Figure 22: Team Dinner





श्री धारापानी माध्यमिक विद्यालय

SHREE DHARAPANI SECONDARY SCHOOL

आरुघाट गाउँपालिका ८, आरुपोकरी, गोरखा

AARUGHAT RURAL MUNICIPALITY 8, AARUPOKHARI, GORKHA

स्थापित : १९३१

ESTD : 2031

पत्र संख्या (Reference No) : १०८५/०८१

वितरण नं. (Dispatch No): ४९

संस्था नं. : ३१४०००००१४००१

विद्यार्थी नं. : ३१४०००००१

Date: November 14, 2024

To,
Mr. Prem K. Khatri
CEO, Ace the Himalaya
Thamel, Kathmandu, Nepal

Subject: Letter of Appreciation

Dear Prem K. Khatri,

On behalf of the Shree Dharapani Secondary School, Aarupokhari-07, Gorkha, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous contribution of stationery materials worth Rs 4,26,000 to support 170 students. Your invaluable commitment to fostering education and supporting sustainability is truly commendable.


By equipping these young learners with essential tools for their education, you are paving the way for a brighter future. Ace the Himalaya efforts resonate deeply with the shared vision of building empowered and resilient communities, ensuring that every child has access to opportunities that help them thrive academically and personally.

Furthermore, your meaningful contribution reflects your dedication to sustainability by investing in the development of future generations. This initiative not only uplifts underprivileged students but also aligns with the broader goals of creating long-term, positive impacts in remote communities like Dharapani.


The students, teachers, and parents deeply appreciate your kindness, which not only meets their immediate academic needs but also motivates them to pursue their studies with renewed enthusiasm and hope for a brighter future.

Once again, thank you for your firm support. Your actions inspire hope and set a remarkable example of leadership in responsible tourism and community engagement. It is a privilege to cooperate with Ace the Himalaya that upholds such noble values and makes a tangible difference in the lives of many.


Warm Regards,



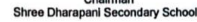
Shanta Sapkota Khanal
Principal
Shree Dharapani Secondary School



Headteacher



Ekadatta Khanal
Chairman
Shree Dharapani Secondary School



संस्था नं. : ३१४०००००१४००१

विद्यार्थी नं. : ३१४०००००१

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Figure 9 Letter of Appreciation from Dharapani Secondary School