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RESPONSIBLE VOLUNTEERING – CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

“VOLUNTEERS RIPPED-OFF ... COMMUNITIES EXPLOITED”

Put your conscience at ease by volunteering with a Responsible Tourism Award winning company!

Responsible volunteering is possible with a unique volunteer option that helps responsible travellers make South Africa a better place to live in and a better place to visit.

WHO IS VOLUNTOURS?

Your hosts, Marnie and Jeremy are South Africans who love South Africa, the land, the place and the people. We have made a commitment to improving the lives of our fellow South Africans. Your project fees also include a project donation which will directly benefit communities and conservation of South Africa.

We personally oversee all our projects with a personal touch from Midrand, situated halfway between Johannesburg and Pretoria. Our commitment is to provide both the community and volunteer with a mutually benefiting experience which is transparent, sustainable, ethical and above all responsible.

IMVELO AWARDS FOR RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

Imvelo recognises tourism and hospitality businesses that make a real, measurable and sustained contribution to responsible tourism.

Voluntours is proud to announce that they were recipients of the following Imvelo Awards for 2007:

- Joint Winner – Chairman’s Award
- Highly Commended – Best Practice Economic Impact
- Finalist – Best Social Involvement Programme

WHY RESPONSIBLE VOLUNTEERING?

Much is said about the environmental impact of tourism but what about the social and economic impact of tourism?

Local people and communities can benefit from your tourism spend. Responsible volunteers *work with and learn from* the community, showing them respect, helping them carry out their own objectives, offering advice and encouragement, and increasing their capacity to *develop their own futures*.

Volunteers should be a positive presence, a source of *inspiration and empowerment*. Outsiders who *impose* their own cultural norms or their own agenda, and *fail* to include local people in decisions, can leave behind *disruption* and even *destruction*, and more problems than they solve, making life even tougher for economically poor people.

WHY WE NEED A CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE?

Volunteering is one of the fastest growing tourism markets locally. Unfortunately, in some cases, poor and vulnerable communities and projects are exploited and do not benefit from volunteers. While volunteers in turn, are made unrealistic promises, are over-charged and only a small portion of their spend goes into the community.

Setting a benchmark for local volunteering organisations protects volunteers and the community.

Our “Code of Good Practice: Responsible Volunteering in South Africa” was launched in conjunction with Calabash Tours at WTM on World Responsible Tourism Day, 14 November 2007.

We invite other volunteer organisations to take stock of their projects and align themselves with a Code of Good Practice as this will benefit South Africa as a volunteer destination!

Volunteer with **VOLUNTOURS and join the growing trend in Responsible Volunteering.**

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!