

# people & places

responsible volunteering



**working with local people to build  
meaningful projects**

**with**

**people and places:** responsible volunteering

**working with local people to build  
meaningful projects**

“if one person or thing is  
**with**  
another or does something  
**with** them,  
they are together  
or they do it together”

**working with local people to build  
meaningful projects**

**without**

**people and places:** responsible volunteering

**working with local people to build  
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**with**

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# working with local people to build meaningful projects

how we do – ‘with’

- local partners
- projects that would exist **without** volunteers
- an **understanding** of the need
- **informed** consent
- **with** not **instead of**
- **honesty** and **fairness**

# working with local people to build meaningful project

## local partners

**community centred** volunteer experiences require a deep **understanding** of the **local context** and a meaningful **insight** into potential negative impacts -

ethical local partners with strong community links are essential

**working with local people to build  
meaningful projects**

**projects** that would exist **without** volunteers

working **with** communities to build the future  
they **want for themselves**

**not**

the future

**we think they should have**



**working with local people to build  
meaningful projects**

**an**

**understanding**

**of**

**the need**

**people and places:**responsible volunteering

# working with local people to build meaningful projects

- working **with the projects**, we formalise their **needs** into a list of aims, with some suggested ways in which volunteers may **help** to achieve them – the development plan
  - the plan is **used** to meaningfully **match** and **brief** volunteers and inform discussions with the project
- volunteers get a copy of the plan so they can see **how** their contribution fits into the **bigger picture**  
*these plans are also available as downloads on our site*
- these plans are **reviewed** and **updated** regularly - informed by project questionnaires and volunteer reports

# working with local people to build meaningful projects

with not instead of

- no **replacement** of local labour
- skills **share**
- **mutual** respect and learning

# working with local people to build meaningful projects

## informed consent

### community

- preparation

- no volunteer placed without **consultation**

- agreed** goal for the volunteer

### volunteers

- preparation

- details of where, how and **with** whom volunteer

- agreed** goal for the volunteer

**working with local people to build  
meaningful projects**

**honesty and fairness**

**“with”  
will never be “meaningful”  
without  
mutual honesty and fairness**

# working with local people to build meaningful projects

“Most self funding volunteer programmes reflect an **extractive** quality, where **most benefit** accrues to **volunteers**, and **sending organisations** in the developed North.”

*Paul Miedema Calabash Trust - South Africa*