



International Mountain Explorers Connection

Promoting Ethical Climbing Conditions Globally

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



KILIMANJARO

Responsible Trekking Organization

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WE'RE ON A MISSION TO SUPPORT RESPONSIBLE MOUNTAIN TREKKING

The International Mountain Explorers Connection (IMEC) is a US 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to support an ethical mountain trekking culture by promoting social, economic and environmental responsibility.

Established in 1996, IMEC was created to promote responsible and sustainable connections between travelers and the people of developing mountain regions of the world. Since 2003 IMEC has been focusing its efforts on the porters employed on Mount Kilimanjaro through its local initiative, the **Kilimanjaro Responsible Trekking Organization (KRTO)** and their key initiative, the **Kilimanjaro Porters Assistance Project (KPAP)**.

See more about our work on pages 3 & 4.

OUR WORK

Through the work of KRTO and the porter assistance project IMEC has supported the following initiatives...

Providing the climbing public with fundamental information concerning proper porter treatment



Empowering communities to improve responsible mountain trekking and environmental conservation skills



Advocating for climbers to make an informed decision in choosing a socially responsible climbing company

PORTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

In 2022, approximately 7,500 porters working under KROTO-approved Partner for Responsible Travel companies benefitted from a fair salary, transparent gratuities, sufficient nutrition, quality accommodations, and pack weight regulations.



Sufficient Nutrition

Porters may eat 1 or 2 meals per day on a climb. The Partner companies are committed to providing 3 meals per day with good portion quantity reported on 99% of the climbs.



A Fair Salary

Although Tanzanian Government Notice No. 228 on 29th June, 2009 has declared a minimum wage, the salary amounts paid are variable and can be as low as 10,000Tsh per day. Because it is mandatory for the Partner companies to pay at least 20,000Tsh per day, the average daily salary payment is 21,000Tsh.



Quality Accommodations

Porters may have poor sleeping accommodations and be overcrowded. Partner company porters slept in good quality tents and had adequate sleeping space 97.4% of the time.



Transparent Guidelines

Companies have different tipping procedures and climbers may give the guide the tip money assuming s/he will distribute the tip fairly. It is a Partner requirement to have transparency in tipping and KPAP reviews the tipping procedure on every climb. 95.2% of the Partner companies' climbs had transparent tipping procedures.



Pack Weight Regulations

Partner companies weigh the bags prior to going to the gate. This helps ensure both the appropriate number of porters and that they are carrying bags that follow the 20kg weight regulation.

OUR IMPACT

Since 2003, IMEC's work has had a tremendous impact for porters climbing Mount Kilimanjaro:

5,225

have received instruction on porter rights through funding providing by the Tanzanian Foundation for Civil Society

37,478

porters on climbs have borrowed our mountain climbing gear free-of-charge

16,000+

mountain crew have participated in our free classes in English, HIV/AIDS awareness, money management, and alternative income-generating classes

7,000 +

porters per year are ensured fair and ethical treatment through the Partner for Responsible Travel companies





Hamdani
Kilimanjaro Porter

“Starting with a non-partner company the job was hard, carrying heavy bags, starving for some days with only one meal at dinner which wasn’t enough at all. I was fortunate to get registered with a KPAP Partner company which was the turning point for my life. Now I could pay school fees for my children and am proud as one of my children is in Tanga for field studies and another is planning to attend form five [advance level] in Singida. Another major benefit for me is being able to meet my family’s basic needs of food and shelter. I have also started building a house and it is in its initial stages.”



Michael
Kilimanjaro Porter

“The working conditions for porters changed when KPAP came on the scene. There is a big difference between KPAP and non-KPAP companies. When working with the KPAP partner companies, I no longer pay a bribe to join a climbing team and receive the 20,000 Tsh per day salary recommended by the government. Furthermore, a transparent tip procedure increases my earnings per trip. I wish more companies would become KPAP partners.”

FY22 FINANCIALS

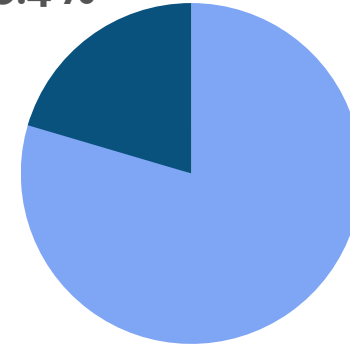
64%

of expenses went to
program operations



Annual Revenue: \$95K

Grants
20.4%



Donations
79.6%

Expenses: \$93K

64%

Program Operations

24%

Administration

12%

Porter Education Classes

OUR SUPPORTERS

patagonia[®]



For a full list of our donors please see our website:

<https://kiliporters.org/thank-you/>

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Become a partner company

Visit below to learn more:

<https://mountainexplorers.org/partnership-for-responsible-travel/qualification-as-a-partner/>

Donate

Make a financial contribution either one-time or recurring:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=GA7S9VTW2KD2A&ssrt=1697378190360

THANK YOU!

ASANTE SANA!

