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# **WANTED: Guides for traveler philanthropy**

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# Goals of travelers' philanthropy:

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- sustainable, equitable development, improved livelihoods, conservation

- reducing poverty and environmental decline

- to give something back

# Bad philanthropy: monuments to poor planning & poor execution

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Good intention is not enough

- 'doing for' instead of 'adding strength' ->no investment from local community
- remote implementers, e.g., district authorities ->no accountability ->funds go missing
- throwing \$\$ at problems ->'feeling good' rather than seeking a local solution
- poor preparations and short-cuts ->skirting village officials and local community consensus

# Results of poor investment

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- Muddy waters

“Give me my money.”

- Blaming community leaders for project failures

# Values-based considerations

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**Development >< Relief**  
**Gender Focus >< Family Focus**  
**Recipient (dependent) >< Participant (dignity)**  
**Full participation >< Helping marginalized**  
**Self-reliance (individual) >< Sharing (community)**  
**Care of environment >< Reducing human vulnerability**  
**Support which spreads >< Sustainability**  
**Genuine need/justice >< Accountability**  
**Integrated program >< Service provision**  
**Training & education >< Working capital & credit**  
**Spiritual alliances >< Inclusiveness of all**  
**Experimentation >< Tested methods**  
**Experience >< Humility**

# Participatory approach

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Seek long-term  
positive  
relationships

Insist on people's  
knowledge,  
thorough  
communication





# Alternatives: work through experienced NGOs or private companies

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Grassroots and long-term experienced international NGOs -> inconsistent but relatively successful record in development

Some private companies successfully promote rural enterprise by outsourcing produce to small farmers

Long-term accompaniment

# Practical investments

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Better farming techniques -> better food preservation -> food security

Symbiotic enterprise  
e.g., safari camps purchasing goods from local communities





# Linking rural people to markets

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- out-growing non-traditional crops
- niche markets for organic farm produce
- crafts under fair trade



# Community projects

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- child immunizations, vaccinations, hygiene
- rural road maintenance insisting on local contributions
- subsidized low-cost housing



# Community conservation

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- o catchment agroforestry and soil-conservation

- o community natural resource planning, village plans, conservation education

- o water committees for sustaining water resources



# Capacity building – education - financial support

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- HIV/AIDS training, voluntary counseling and testing
- educational opportunities for youth
- micro-savings and credit groups



# Bio-intensive gardens

- Challenge: Families with living with HIV/AIDS lack the labor to cultivate & nutrition to cope with ARVs. Urban families lack land.
- A solution: small bio-intensive gardens, nutritious organic leafy vegetables, increase effectiveness of ARVs



# Poultry vaccinations

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- Challenge: Rural poultry - livestock of the poorest; 70% die annually due to Newcastle Disease
- A solution: 1-2 vaccination - an eye-drop - out of the cold chain for up to 4 days; transform incomes, nutritive levels, empower women and youth.



# Small livestock loans

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- Challenge: Lack of financial credit, declining soils & fertility:
- A solution: In-kind loans = livestock, an African tradition, multiply rapidly, rural credit schemes managed by communities themselves



# Follow through...

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- **Keep your promises**
- **Consider the best intervention that you can**
- **Keep communication open, obtain a follow-up report**
- **Know that not all interventions will be successful**
- **Do a good job on your part of the project.**

**"It matters if you just don't give up."**

*- Stephen Hawking -*