

# Responsible Tourism Update



Zurura being rescued

Over the last twelve months, Audley has helped to support Friends of Conservation (FOC) with donations, sponsorship of their newsletter and other initiatives as part of our commitment to responsible tourism. This year, two of Audley's Specialists, Sara Wells and Samantha Drew, will be taking part in the London Marathon to help raise awareness for the charity. To find out more about this or to sponsor them, please visit [www.audleytravel.com/marathon](http://www.audleytravel.com/marathon).

FOC operates in many of the same countries as we do and shares our belief in ensuring local communities and wildlife are not tarnished by our

clients' visits. It has been working with local communities for over 20 years to develop and promote a balance between man and nature and so help protect biodiversity and the environment.

Their key activities include wildlife and habitat protection, environmental programmes providing education, health and other benefits to local communities in developing countries, fuel efficiency and reforestation, anti-poaching campaigns, human/wildlife conflict management, promoting sustainable tourism and carbon reduction projects. For more information about FOC, visit [www.foc-uk.com](http://www.foc-uk.com).

Our Africa Safari team have recently sponsored two orphaned baby elephants at the Daphne Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage in Kenya. Sian was found lost and dehydrated in Amboseli, and Zurura had fallen down a ruby mine before being helped out by the miners and handed in at the local police station! The team's sponsorship money goes towards milk formula, keepers' fees and their eventual release back to the wild. If you would like to sponsor an elephant visit their website at [www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org](http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org).

Situated in a traditional Naxi village high above the town of Lijiang in the hills of Yunnan, China, is the Wenhai Ecologde. This pioneering attempt at ecotourism in a country not renowned for its environmental focus is owned and operated by a village co-operative. It is entirely given over to eco-tourism and offers local-led walking tours into the scenic surrounding countryside. For details, contact our China Specialists on 01869 276 217.

The leafy Kyrgyz village of Arslanbob's superb Community Based Tourism (CBT) project offers a number of excellent (if basic) homestays, and arranges guides and horse or donkey transport for gentle outings through walnut forests to local waterfalls and beauty spots or more adventurous four and five-day treks over the high passes of Mount Babash-Ata to Holy Lake. For further details, call Huw on 01869 276 274.

