

## Learning and service trip to Tanzania



It's hard to find the words to describe the wealth and breadth of this experience in a short space. The team gathered at Terminal 2 Heathrow to take our flight on 4 July. We had a team meeting while we waited for everyone to arrive and this was in addition to the regular email updates that had provided everyone with lots of information before the trip. However, little can prepare you for your first trip to Africa. You have to experience it.

There are three categories of learning from this trip: intellectual, life experience and self development.



*Arriving at Kilamjoro International Airport Arusha*

## Intellectual



On arriving in Arusha Tanzania, we checked in at the hotel and went, after a snack, to visit the United Nations Residual Mechanism. The Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT) was established by UN Security Council Resolution 1966 (2010)

to complete the remaining work of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia after the completion of their respective mandates. The MICT has two branches, one in Arusha, Tanzania, and one in The Hague, Netherlands.

A permanent building is being developed near to Arusha and it was more or less completed but not yet occupied. In the meantime MICT is situated in the International Conference Centre in Arusha. It has the feeling of a 70's building with welcome air conditioning and gardens. The presentation by two of the young female lawyers working at the MICT was enlightening. Before, we knew little about the Criminal Tribunals nor that the work was being continued to ensure that the world doesn't forget about the atrocities in former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Our team had many questions especially on the work for women and girls which further developed our understanding.



The next day we stayed in Monduli, a Maasai town about 75 minutes from Arusha. We met with representatives of Naserian, the Tanzanian NGO working for Maasai widows and their children that we had come to work with. At the meeting there were community leaders from the villages in which Naserian works. We heard from



the widows for the first time about the work of Naserian and also shared with them something about our team and ourselves. Monduli is green and well organised and known to have a history of good governance. We met with the Leader of the local council who showed great support of Naserian.

We travelled about 40 minutes by overland vehicles to Lendikenya which is a Maasai village reached by off road tracks. Here we stayed for 10 nights and learned from the widows and the community leaders of their lives and the way that Maasai society is structured.

Naserian was founded in 2010 as a result of the visit of Zarin Hainsworth to Eloui and discussing with the women there, their needs and aspirations. She shared information about an organisation called Women of Purpose in Uganda which works with widows locally. The women wanted something similar so Naserian was born with the name of their choosing meaning "Grace of God" in the Maasai language, Maa. Two Maasai warriors, known as Morani, Mibaku and Alais, were engaged in the development of the organisation and worked with the women of the community, widows and community leaders to develop the organisation.



The ideology of Naserian is that the widows are active agents of change and of their own development and not passive recipients of aid. They decide themselves on their needs and the training and social development projects in which they wish to be engaged and then take

action to try to achieve this. In a very short time Naserian has achieved projects which enable widows to own and look after goats, make and sell jewellery, the establishment of a fund and a bank account, the listing of Naserian as a charity registered in Tanzania, the funding of two girls to go to secondary school, training in human rights, FGM and soap and candle making. Widows have used these skills to make and sell soap, candles and jewellery. FGM is eradicated in four of the seven villages where Naserian is established with limited cases in the other villages. The local midwife who used to be a cutter is now teaching all midwives not to cut and an alternative rite of passage ceremony is being used. They have used the training in human rights and the Tanzanian constitution to regain land taken by relatives once they became widows and to reduce early marriage, forced marriage and domestic violence. Naserian is well respected across the region



with community leaders actively engaged in supporting it's work. Prior to 2010, widows were taboo and hid, not wishing to be known as widows and unaware of their rights. Now the communities have gifted land to Naserian and widows are happy to be known as widows and have worked together to support each other to increase their own independence and the futures of their children.

After a few days we went on a short safari and visited Mto Waambu, known as a pre safari tourist spot and went on a walking tour of the town. Water is taken from Lake



Manyara and irrigation channels are used to develop rice and banana plantations. The town hosts representatives of over 100 tribes including wood carvers from Mozambique. The community projects are supported by foreign aid agencies and focus on the environment, water, schooling and HIV/AIDS. The latter was brought to the area through truck drivers and drivers for safari trips, through local prostitution. Although the environment is one of the foci of the community project, there is still much to be done in terms of eradicating rubbish especially plastic. Mto Waambu is green and fertile and has many tourist shops. Coming from the safety and serenity of the Maasai villages, it had a harsher quality and definitely impacted by materialism and a view of visitors as walking ATMs.

We visited the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA). Encompassing three spectacular volcanic craters, the Olduvai Gorge, huge expanses of savannah, forest and bush land, the NCA is key to Tanzania's tourism industry. We spent a day in the crater and the next day visited the banana plantations on the outside of the crater

and walked through the forest up the side of the crater to experience a hidden waterfall. The NCA measures 8,300 square kilometres and is renowned as the place where humanity and wild animals co-exist in harmony. The NCA became a Man and Biosphere Reserve in 1971 and was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1979.





Originally part of the Serengeti National Park when the latter was established by the British in 1951, in 1959 the NCA was formed, separating NCA from Serengeti. Land within the area is multi-use, providing protection status for wildlife while also permitting human habitation. Its uniqueness lies in the fact that the NCA is where man, livestock and wild animals live in peace: Maasai cattle can sometimes be seen grazing alongside zebras on Ngorongoro's grassland. The multiple land use systems in this area are among the earliest to be established around the world as a means of reconciling human development and conserving natural resources.

Apart from conserving world heritage, Ngorongoro plays a major role in national development, providing high revenues and taxes as well as supporting local industry, infrastructure and community development. NCA also contains numerous paleontological, archaeological, and anthropological sites of exceptional quality.



The Ngorongoro crater is the result of a massive volcanic eruption of a mountain as high as Kilimanjaro three million years ago. It is a large, unbroken, un-flooded caldera, the sixth largest in the world. It sinks to a depth of 610

metres, with a base area covering 260 square kilometres. The height of the original volcano must have ranged between 4,500 to 5,800 metres high. Apart from the main caldera, Ngorongoro also has two other volcanic craters: Olmoti and Empakai, the former famous for its stunning waterfalls, and the latter holding a deep lake and lush, green walls.



On the leeward of the Ngorongoro highlands protrudes the iconic Oldonyo Lengai, an active volcano and Tanzania's third highest peak after Kilimanjaro and Meru. Known to local people as the Mountain of God, Mount Lengai's last major eruption occurred in 2007. At the mountain's foot is Lake Natron, East Africa's major breeding ground for flamingoes. Oldonyo Lengai is sacred to the Maasai and part of their creation myth.

The NCA contains over 25,000 large animals including 26 black rhinoceros. There are 7,000 wildebeests, 4,000 zebras, 3,000 eland and 3,000 Grant's and Thomson's gazelles. The crater also has the densest known population of lions, numbering 62. Higher up, in the rainforests of the crater rim, are leopards, about 30 large elephants, mountain reedbuck and more than 4,000 buffalos, spotted hyenas, jackals, rare wild dogs, cheetahs, and other felines.



The legendary annual wildebeest and zebra migration also passes through Ngorongoro, when the 1.7 million ungulates move south into the area in December

then move out heading north in June. The migrants passing through the plains of the reserve include 1.7 million wildebeest, 260,000 zebra, and 470,000 gazelles. The Lake Ndutu area to the west has significant cheetah and lion populations. Over 500 species of bird have been recorded within the NCA. These include ostrich, white pelican, and greater and lesser flamingo on Lake Magadi within the crater, Lake Ndutu, and in the Empakaai Crater Lake, where a vast bird population can be observed. We saw rhino, elephant, lion, zebra, water buffalo, buffalo, jackal, wildebeest, ostrich, gazelles, hippo, monkeys, baboons, crested cranes, and many storks and birds.



*Finding lions is a highlight. These were all asleep and enjoying the sun.*

Ngorongoro is home to lush green, rain-watered vegetation, as well as desert plants. The area has uncultivated lowland vegetation, arid and semi-arid plant communities, abundant short grass used for grazing, and highland forests. Scrub heath, grasslands, high open moorland, and the remains of dense evergreen forests cover the steep slopes of the crater, while highland trees including Peacock Flower, Yellow-Wood, Kousso (*Hagenia abyssinica*), and Sweet Olive can also be found. There are also extensive stretches of pure bamboo on Oldeani Mountain, and Pencil Cedar on Makarut Mountain to the west. Dove-weeds dominate the lower slopes, while the upland woodlands contain Red Thorn Acacia and Gum Acacia that are critical for protecting the watershed.

The crater basin is covered by open short grass plains with fresh and brackish water lakes, marshes, swamps, and two patches of Acacia woodland. The Lerai Forest is home to the Yellow Fever tree and Acacia, while Laiyanai Forest has Pillar Wood and Acacia Lahai. The undulating plains to the west are grass-covered with occasional Umbrella Acacia and Commiphora Africana trees. Blackthorn Acacia and Zebrawood dominate in the drier conditions beside Lake Eyasi. These extensive grasslands and bush are rich, relatively untouched by cultivation, and support very large animal populations.



At far end of the NCA stands the Olduvai Gorge archaeological site, widely regarded as the cradle of mankind and the most important prehistoric site in the world. It is at Olduvai where remains of Zinjanthropus, the world's first humans, were discovered by Dr Louis and Mary Leakey over 50 years ago. The earliest known specimens of the human genus, Homo-habilis, as well as early hominids such as Paranthropus boisei have also been found there. The Olduvai Gorge is a steep-sided ravine in the Great Rift Valley, stretching along eastern Africa. The windswept Olduvai is about thirty miles long, lying within the rain shadow of the Ngorongoro highlands. The gorge is named after oldupaai, the Maasai word for the wild sisal plant.

Millions of years ago, the site comprised of a large lake, the shores of which were covered with successive deposits of volcanic ash. Some 500,000 years ago seismic forces diverted a nearby stream, which began to cut down into the sediments, revealing the seven main layers in the walls of the gorge. Based on fossil evidence found at the Olduvai Gorge, it is believed that various hominid species have been occupying the crater continuously for the past three million years of Ngorongoro's existence. Native hunter and gatherers who initially lived in the vicinity were replaced by pastoralists a few thousand years ago.





On the way back to Lenkikenya, we visited a Maasai village near the outside of Ngorogoro and climbed up a hidden waterfall.



At the end of our visit to Arusha district we were invited to meet with the East African Community (EAC). The headquarters are in Arusha in a new building next to the International Conference Centre. After an overview of the EAC, we met with the head of Gender and Community Development who shared some of the aspirations and challenges for women, children, youth and people with disability across the region. The EAC is a regional intergovernmental organisation of 6 Partner States: the Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the Republic of Uganda. The EAC is home to 158 million citizens, of which 22% is

urban population. With a land area of 2.42 million square kilometres and a combined Gross Domestic Product of US\$ 169.5 billion (EAC Statistics for 2015), its realisation bears great strategic and geopolitical significance and prospects for the renewed and reinvigorated EAC.

The work of the EAC is guided by its Treaty which established the Community. It was signed on 30 November 1999 and entered into force on 7 July 2000 following its ratification by the original three Partner States - Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The Republic of Rwanda and the Republic of Burundi acceded to the EAC Treaty on 18 June 2007 and became full Members of the Community with effect from 1 July 2007. The Republic of South Sudan acceded to the Treaty on 15 April 2016 and shall become a full Member once the instruments of ratification of the Treaty are deposited with the Secretary General of the Community. As one of the fastest growing regional economic blocs in the world, the EAC is widening and deepening co-operation among the Partner States in various key spheres for their mutual benefit. These spheres include political, economic and social. At the moment, the regional integration process is in full swing as reflected by the encouraging progress of the East African Customs Union, the establishment of the Common Market in 2010 and the implementation of the East African Monetary Union Protocol.

We were told that the Presidents of all countries are keen to see the political union of the region. In the past it was not possible as the founding Presidents had very different political views. However the process towards an East African Federation is being fast tracked, because of the serious determination of the East African leadership and citizens to construct a powerful and sustainable East African economic and political bloc. With oil, gas, geo thermal energy, lakes, coasts, tanzanite, gold and other natural resources, the EAC is a rich area.

After our time in Arusha district we visited Zanzibar. It is lush and fertile with unique spice farms, turquoise seas and white sands. In 1964, the coastal archipelago of Zanzibar joined with the much larger mainland territory of Tanganyika to form Tanzania. It remains semi-autonomous with separate elections and has a higher Muslim community per capita than elsewhere in Tanzania. Its history ranges from inhabitants being Arabic but not related to other Arab states to being under the



Sultan of Oman and then a British protectorate. It was the heart of the Arab slave trade but then tried to abolish slavery. Zanzibar is 25–50 kilometres (16–31 mi) off the coast of the mainland, and consists of many small islands and two large ones: Unguja (the main island, referred to informally as Zanzibar) and Pemba. The capital is Zanzibar City, located on the island of Unguja. Its historic centre is Stone Town, which is a World Heritage Site.



Zanzibar's main industries are spices, raffia, and tourism. In particular, the islands produce cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon, and black pepper. The spice farms also have turmeric, ginger, ylang ylang, aloe vera, lemongrass among others. Zanzibar is the home of the endemic Zanzibar red colobus monkey, the Zanzibar servaline genet, and the (possibly extinct) Zanzibar leopard. It is also famous for the dolphins which feed and swim off the south of the main island and the coral reefs around the islands.

We visited an island with a Baobab tree. Other common names include 'boab', 'boaboa', 'bottle tree', 'the tree of life', 'upside-down tree', and 'monkey bread tree'. The trees reach heights of 5 to 30 metres (16 to 98 ft) and trunk diameters of 7 to 11 metres (23 to 36 ft). Its trunk can hold up to 120,000 litres of water. For most of the year, the tree is leafless, and looks very much like it has its roots sticking up in the air. The baobab tree is known as the tree of life, because it can provide shelter, clothing, food, and water for



the animal and human inhabitants of the African savannah regions. The cork-like bark and huge stem are fire resistant and are used for making cloth and rope. The leaves are used as condiments and medicines. The fruit, called "monkey bread", is edible, and full of vitamin C.



### Life Experience

The above give a very brief overview of our itinerary and things we learnt about, but this in no way covers the life experience that we gained. Our first experience of Africa was the international airport in Adis Ababa. Mostly finished but with still some construction going on, we had a long tired wait before getting our plane to Kilimanjaro international airport. Travelling by bus from the airport into Arusha was the first experience of the variety of roads which are vastly different from the usual roads in the UK. Unfortunately corruption and lack of trustworthiness in international aid, especially from China, has meant badly constructed new roads or unfinished roads. Leaving the populace to suffer from dusty, pot holed roads that provide a longer and bumpier experience than we are used to. Once off the main routes, the roads become dirt tracks and eventually there are no roads and overland vehicles are needed to get to villages where we went through bush and thorn trees with rain created ravines for hours. We were lucky though, as most people travel without the



luxury of private cars and use trucks or vans where people and their goods are squeezed into dalla dalla, or use motorbikes or walk.



*Our daily dining area with a view of the Savana to die for*

The shops for the most part are dusty with small pyramids of fruit or veg piles in baskets on otherwise empty counters, mostly market style. There is little in the small shops that are found in some villages near the main road. In Arusha there are some western style supermarkets where there is a range of goods at ex-pat prices.

The local food is ugali, made from maize flour which is pure starch and in one large lump or rice. Sauces to go with the ugali, rice or chips are bean and tomato based or with beef, goat and sometimes lamb, or with grilled chicken. The food is tasty and in restaurants along the side of the road, not expensive. For the most part we had a chef and his assistant looking after us. They had very basic facilities but managed to conjure up exquisite soups and a variety of main courses and deserts that kept us full and happy all the time. Naseri and Danny were hugely kind and helpful and examples of culinary genius. Our dining area in Lendikenya was an enclosed area with table and table cloth with crockery and cutlery and the view of the African savannah, beautiful sunsets and brilliant starscapes.

Toilets ranged from clean western style with working flush and toilet paper to western style dirty and not working to hole in the floor clean and very usable to hole in the floor, dirty with no door or door but no light. Getting used to using the variety of available toilets was probably one of the greatest challenges especially if you find squatting a challenge.  
*The toilet block in the background and the kitchen hut*





The trip was not a luxury tourist affair and the hotels were at the cheaper end. However it was interesting to note the difference in markets between the Arusha hotels and those in Zanzibar. While hotels in Arusha try to have the outside veneer of western hotels, the more basic don't have the infrastructure to support them and the toilets and showers often don't work or work badly. Mostly you get used to low water pressure with either cold water or boiling hot water and no way of altering the temperature. Whist Arusha is mostly for those going on safari or climbing and perhaps more robust tourists, Zanzibar is more for honeymooning of luxury tourism and so the quality of the facilities is much higher for the same apparent level of hotel.

The Maasai villages are comprised of many families each with their own boma (homestead). Each boma will have enough huts for all the members of the family plus corals for the animals and space to grow maize and vegetables for the family and pasture for the animals. So each boma is quite large and spread out. So each village covers a large area. Their village centre has the community council office, a health clinic perhaps a kindergarten or primary school. There are usually no shops.



We were all expecting hot weather, but climate change is touching us all and in the Maasai villages we visited it was cool much of the time, with some hotter days and very cool evenings. We often sat with coats on and sleeping bags around our shoulders while eating dinner. The locals told us that the weather was very

unusual and there were a couple of days when there was some light rain. When we returned via Adis Ababa there was torrential rain.



One of our tasks with the widows was building a widows centre and we learnt the traditional method of building houses using stouter timber for posts and thinner branches for cross support all held together with tight wire. Simple but strong and effective.

Meeting with the widows was emotional as they greeted us with song and dance and wide smiles. Making us feel incredibly welcome and very very happy that we were there. It was humbling. We learnt of their stories of hardship and love and loss. Members of our team provided impromptu childrens classes and medical clinics. We had to wing it and wait around and make the most of any given situation as it seldom goes to plan. People have to get things done when they can and can't always know how long it will take them to collect water or wood or get the animals to water and back especially given the terrain and they have to walk. Transport might not always be available when you need it. So often things don't start or finish on time as one waits around for everyone to get there. But all of this teaches that there are other ways of understanding time and that one needs to make the most of every moment.



We had brought gifts from a variety of different donors and these were distributed among the different villages and schools. They were much appreciated. Bolts of Harris Tweed were presented to two villages to provide capes for the Naserian committee

members. Swatches of Harris material were given to members of the Naserian committee for shawls. Medical equipment was given to the clinic in Lendikenya.

Home work diaries from Marling School were distributed and much admired by the teachers in all the villages as were the pencils. Stroud High School had donated watches, coats, trainers, books, netball kits and maths paper which were warmly received. The Co-op donated cricket and tennis sets, footballs and sanitary products. We taught the teachers and local leaders how to play rounders. Others had donated pencils, chalk, pens and other items for schools which were evenly distributed and we learnt later that all the materials had reached the schools and were appreciated.

The safari was an amazing experience to be in the natural environment of the animals – guests in their space. We were lucky to see so many. Standing up in the safari vehicle with your head out of the top and looking as far as the eye could see on natural habitat was awe inspiring and breath taking. The climb up the crater on the way out through rain forest, with the wind in your hair and views across the tree canopy and then on the descent on the other side with a stunning view of Lake Manyara gradually descending through the trees to be at root level again was



unforgettable. On the rim of the crater the road had times when there were unbroken views of both sides. On the left the inside of the crater with its own local atmosphere and on the other Lake Manyara and the forest surrounding the lake. We stayed at a camping site near by with majestic views over Lake Manyara which were spellbinding beautiful. And we were lucky to have glamping in comfortable sand igloos.



We experienced a variety of airports with the flight to Zanzibar from the local Arusha airport with planes from 4 seater to 35 seater planes.

Zanzibar was green and warm with an hour drive from the airport to the beach front hotel. It was empty except for us on the first two nights with a private beach, clean and lovely swimming pool, large rooms and bathrooms and fantastic restaurant with delicious food. The sea was bath warm with soft sand underfoot and we laughed with joy when in the sea for the first time delighting in the stunning beauty and comfort of the experience.



The next day we went on a day trip sailing on a local traditional wooden boat to the coral reefs where we snorkeled and saw a vast array of fish and coral. Tearing ourselves away from the underseaworld, we headed to a famous sand island with a 300 year Baobab tree.

Unfortunately the island has become touristy with noise and lots of bungalows selling traditional items and food. We sailed to another island where a lovely fish dinner had been prepared with fresh lobster and other fish. It was small and isolated and we were the only people there. We witnessed the fast incoming tide into the mangrove lagoon and a baby green shark. After lunch we stopped at another island with a sand bank to loll in the warm Indian ocean with our only worry what desert to choose for dinner.



Our visit to a spice farm was full of information on how different spices and plants can be used. We had a lovely lunch prepared ready for us to haggle on the cost of the soap, perfume and spices we bought. It took a lot of energy to haggle and eventually we bought things at about 50p per item less than the same thing on sale at Zanzibar airport.



On our last morning some of our team got up at 5 am to go to see dolphins. Our car was the first in the car park and there were only two or three boats out on the sea with us at first. We were in small motor boats and for an hour motored about the green surging sea with no sign of dolphins, and increasingly sea sick. You feel very small so close to the ocean. More boats were arriving and we decided to leave. As we made our way to shore we saw one dolphin and within seconds other boats arrived. We saw two other dolphins but by that time there were 29 boats with screaming people and motors diesel roaring. We decided that we wouldn't see any more dolphins and made our way back. Speaking to a local guide he said that too many people are wanting to see the dolphins and this area is where they feed. So if we frighten them away, it will do much harm to them and thus the local food chain. It is sad to see how our desire to be close to nature can so easily harm it.

On the way to the airport we made a swift tour of the heritage site of Stone Town, the original capital of Zanzibar. It has tiny streets and active markets. Hotels are now where once was the British men's club, the German, French, US and British consulates. We also saw the hospital where Livingstone's body had been kept before being taken to Westminster Abbey. It was the most colonial place we saw on the trip.

Every evening we reflected on the day – what we had done and what we had learnt. The purpose of this time for reflection was to share with others our own personal perception of the experience and to try to express in words this experience. It was a useful way of getting to know each other and our thoughts as well as a way to prepare for how to share the experience with others.

## **Personal development**

In Addis Ababa some of our team chatted to a couple returning from Malawi and it became clear that much of what we had learnt of development is true of much of Africa. In some cases aid has been given in cash and outward semblance of development is everywhere with mobiles, tvs, satellite dishes, tall glass buildings. Yet the infrastructure is missing and people are being drawn away from all that is good in traditional culture. Schools are often far away from homes and children end up in boarding school for months at a time staying in hostels away from family. Political systems around Africa seem to have started with more socialist types trying to look after all the people, to more capitalist types. Now there is increasing extremes of rich and poor. What is needed is a system which encourages individual initiative and responsibility at the same time as institutional coordination and care without paternalism to ensure the vulnerable and disadvantages are enabled to take their own steps forward. Naserian is working along these lines.



## **Achievements of the trip**

The result of our posture of learning meant that we had much opportunity to learn from the widows and community leaders. We consulted at the end of our time in the villages and synthesized that learning into a frame work and some ideas that we thought might be useful. In a meeting with the Naserian committee we shared these ideas and also at the meeting in Monduli with community leaders and the MP. These ideas were shared on the basis that they were just some ideas that could be taken and consulted upon by Naserian who could then implement them or not depending on their own understanding and aspirations. The Naserian committee has decided to have four tranches of development: health, education, economic independence and human rights. For each of these areas they will have a committee or individuals who will champion this area of activity. One idea they wish to take forward is to expand the existing children's classes and working together with the local schools, train up widows to become teaching assistants and peripatetic teachers. The schools will be local so children do not have to walk more than 30 mins and will only take two or three hours so the children can still participate in their



family activities. This idea was much liked by the MP who has already donated materials to take this idea forward. He has also asked us to return in a year to see how much they have achieved.

Another suggestion that was taken on by Naserian is to train widows in each village in sanitation and basic health care so that they can teach others in the community. Naserian will also begin to encourage women to collect the delivery pack they need to give birth, well in advance and to ensure that there is a sterile razor and string rather than milk encrusted cloth to tie and cut the umbilical cord.

As a result of the last meeting with the widows and community leaders the regional radio has provided an hour a month for Naserian to share their news and their aspirations. The meeting with the EAC resulted in Naserian being included on the EAC register of NGOs to invite to all of its events and they have since been invited to events such as the one for International Women's Day. They have also been on TV.

A centre was constructed for the widows, medical surgeries were held, childrens classes were held, loads of photos and videos were taken to be made into presentations for the website, stories of the widows were taken to be made into an e-book, design ideas given to the widows to improve the marketability of their jewelry.

All of those in the trip learnt that sustainable development works best when local people create plans for themselves but are accompanied to achieve those plans in a slow organic way with as little interference as possible, developing capacity all the time and the knowledge that they can take positive action and become change makers for a better world themselves in consultation with others, keeping alive the very best of their culture.

