



The Himalayan Club and the Environment

A Report

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1. Summary of Recommendations

We submit a number of recommendations for consideration by the Himalayan Club. They are based on the discussions in the Seminar on the Himalayan Club and the Environment held in Mumbai, 15 February 2008, the lectures and talks given by Jürg Meyer during the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the Club, a number of informal discussions, and the article by Aspie Moddie in the Club's publication on the Environmental Protection of the Himalaya, 1994.

The Seminar was attended by Suman Dubey (President of the HC); Tanil Kilachand (Vice President); Aspie Moddie; Meher Mehta; Gurdial Singh, Nalni Jayal; Mandip Singh Soin; Jürg Meyer (former Director of Environmental Department of the Swiss Alpine Club). Aamir Ali chaired the meeting. The Seminar and the talks by Jürg Meyer generated a great deal of enthusiasm; we feel strongly that urgent action should be taken so that the momentum is not dissipated.

1. Two phases approach

We propose a two – phases approach: A 1st phase 2008-2009 will begin with the foundation of an Environment Commission and aim at the adaptation of new Himalayan Club Environmental Guidelines and a decision about the employment of a professional specialist. Parallel to this a international fundraising will be started.

The 2nd phase 2009-2010 begins with the employment of the specialist, who will work on a situation analysis and project proposals, and it ends with the launch of one ore two first projects, and decisions on the further employment of a specialist.

2. Widen the Aims and Objectives of the Himalayan Club.

The aims and objectives, printed on the title page of the Journal have remained unchanged since 1928. Tremendous changes have taken place in the Himalayan scene: Tourism, mountaineering, society, economy – everything has changed very much since then. The Seminar agreed to recommend that these aims be expanded as follows (the additions are given in bold italics):

“To encourage and assist Himalayan travel and exploration, to extend knowledge of the Himalaya and adjoining mountain ranges **and its local communities** through science, art, literature and sport **and to protect the environment.**”

As the Club is already dealing with the environment, this does not indicate any radical change but draws attention to a significant turning point in the Club's activities. The President and the Editor should draw the attention of members to this in an appropriate way.

We furthermore propose to reformulate the club's general objectives in the statutes completely, and, even better, to create a short document of general guidelines which serve as “road map” for the clubs activities in the next 10 to 15 years. We present some propositions for issues to be taken into the new objectives.

3. Establish a Commission on Environment

The HC had already decided to establish a Committee on Environment and Conservation. This should be expanded into a Commission on Environment consisting of a small core and a number of consultants. While the core should be composed of members of the Managing Committee, or senior members of the HC, the consultants should be drawn from outside, maybe even from overseas members.

The leadership of this Commission would be crucial for its successful functioning. The Commission should start functioning as soon as the core members are appointed; we would hope that this would not be later than August 2008. The Commission would be responsible for all environmental activities of the Club and should report to the MC.



4. Establish an Environmental Fund

The HC should establish a separate Environmental Fund. This would be fed by gifts, donations, and voluntary contributions. In the first instance, an appeal might be made to the approximately 400 overseas members of the HC.

We believe that US\$ 50,000 could be raised from overseas members, the Environment Fund of the Swiss Alpine Club, the Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research and so on. Jürg Meyer and Aamir Ali could help with this fund-raising exercise.

5. Environmental guidelines

The environment commission should prepare environmental guidelines which would provide the basis for the club's activities. We present a check list of points which should be covered by these guidelines. The guidelines have been adopted by the managing committee and finally by the General Assembly 2009.

6. Professional specialist

The Club should appoint a young professional specialist; initially this could be for a limited mandate of, say, two years. The person should be a graduate in environmental related sciences and have some mountaineering/Himalayan experience.

7. Prepare a Report on the Present Situation, with proposals for environmental projects

The first task of the professional specialist should be to prepare a report on the present situation of the environmental challenges in the Himalaya, of tourism & mountaineering, of the organisations and stakeholders active in the field. The report should further present a list of possible future projects for the Himalayan Club. We present a rough check list of issues which might be covered in this report. On the basis of this report the Environment Commission and the Managing Committee could decide about the first projects to be undertaken.

8. Budget 2008 – 2011

We submit a very rough budget for three years, 2008 – 2011. The main cost will be for the young specialist proposed above. We also suggest that ultimately travel and other costs for the Commission should be covered by the Environmental Fund. This would amount to US\$ 35,000; another \$ 15,000 should be provided for launching one or two projects.

9. Other Proposals for the Himalayan Club

During our discussions a number of other proposals were made and the Club might wish to consider them.

- Enlarge the membership base
- Revise the Club's management structure
- Become a member of UIAA



2. Background and Purpose of this Document

In the last years there was a growing conscience within Himalayan Club members and the management committee, that some environmental commitment for the protection and sustainable development of the Himalaya would be important. The general discussion about environmental challenges in the Himalaya is quite older. Already in 1994 the club published a booklet “Environmental Protection of the Himalaya – a Mountaineer’s View” with a broad range of articles on the subject. One of the more important is “Guidelines for Environmental Action” by Aspie D. Moddie, because it sketches many of the steps an organisation has to undertake to create successful environmental projects (see appendix 3). Furthermore, aspects of Himalaya environment and sustainable development have always been a subject in the clubs “Himalayan Journal”.

However, the club did not manage up to now to do anything in concrete terms, and there were no specific projects. The main reason for this is probably the fact, that with the existing voluntary work power the responsible members of the club were enough occupied, and that capacities for further work were just not there. This led Aamir Ali, a Swiss-Indian member of the club since xy, to raise the question of some professional staff for environmental work. He then proposed to the club to invite Jürg Meyer, who was until 1997 head of the environmental department of the Swiss Alpine Club SAC, at the occasion of the 80th year jubilee event in Mumbai in February 2008 for a lecture and discussions about the environmental work of the SAC. The main subject should be to discuss the installation of a paid environmental officer for the Himalayan Club.

The management committee approved this proposition. To make the visit of Jürg Meyer more profitable, a full day open workshop with some members of the management committee was organised for the 15th of February. This intense day of presentations and discussion was important; it gave the Himalayan Club representatives quite a deep insight in the nature of environmental projects and the experiences of the SAC, and the discussions brought some important insights for the next steps to be discussed and decided about by the Himalayan Club. A summary of the results of this day are given in appendix 2.

On the 16th of February, both authors of this document had the opportunity to present a lecture at the Indian Merchants Chamber IMC, which supports the Himalayan Club and where Himalayan Club vice president Tanil Kilachand is member of the board. Furthermore, the IMC quite went ahead in environmental issues in the last years, focusing on the challenges and opportunities of climate change. This made this exchange even more fruitful. On the main celebration day of the Himalayan Club, February 17th, Jürg Meyer held a lecture about the environmental work of the SAC and presented some prevailing structural and financial conditions as well as some ideas of environmental projects for the Himalayan Club.

Jürg Meyer and Aamir Ali proposed that they would process the results of these meetings, lectures and discussions into a working paper on behalf of the management committee of the Himalayan Club. This resulted in this document. This document does not deal with the question why a club like the Himalayan Club should also be an environmental organisation and why mountaineers should care for their mountains – this was subject of the lectures in Mumbai. The lecture of Jürg Meyer is attached to this report as appendix 1.

This document is directed at the management committee of the Himalayan Club. It should allow the committee to discuss the further direction of an environmental commitment of the club, to modify the propositions into their preferred form and then to decide on a work plan all the necessary steps to be undertaken. Parts of the report may also be used for communication or discussion with possible future partners. The document furthermore forms the base of further consulting of Jürg Meyer for the Himalayan Club.



3. Impressions and Feedback to Discussions of February 15th – 17th 2008

We were not only impressed by the hospitality of all the Himalayan Club members and those responsible for the meetings, but also by the effectiveness and professional organisation of all events. This proved us, that the Himalayan Club has great capacities of doing things in an effective and professional style – one of the basic conditions for environmental projects as well!

We were also impressed by the unanimous conviction and the will to really begin an environmental commitment and to get involved with specific steps and projects. This of course is the main and crucial condition! On the other hand we felt some feelings of frustration about the fact, that for years and years there were nothing than discussions, verbal commitments and written papers, but no real work; other expressed some feeling of helplessness – we really would like to do something, but we have neither time nor money, and there is so much to do, so where should we begin? We hope that we can contribute to resolve these feeling and to change them into positive motivation for the future.

We observed that the old and still valid main objectives of the club from 1928, were quite often quoted and interpreted under the aspects of the very much changed conditions of today. This of course raised the question about a revision of these objectives.

We were equally impressed by the very progressive “Knowledge Paper on India’s response to Emerging Challenges of Climate Change” of the Indian Merchant’s Chamber 2007, with all the commitments of the IMC. The excellent contacts between IMC and Himalayan Club are certainly promising for future partnerships in environmental projects. We do hope that the IMC or some specific companies might be partners of environmental projects of the Himalayan Club in future.

We got the impression that the need for some professional support for the planned environmental commitment is seen as given quite unanimously. It became quite clear, that the existing human power of the club – all voluntary! – is merely enough to keep the traditional work and services of the club going, and that no resources can be allocated to environmental projects. It was further agreed that the environmental knowledge and experience background within the Himalayan Club is not sufficient and has to be gained from outside the club.

Our conclusion therefore is, that the Himalayan Club expressed very clearly it’s commitment for the Himalayan environment, and that it’s only the question of “How to Start?” is open. We hope that we will be able to contribute some support to overcome these start-up difficulties.

4. Where is the Himalayan Club now?

The Himalayan Club is certainly a very traditional club. However, thanks to very committed members it is an active club. It’s main activities are the organisation and co-funding of Himalaya climbing expeditions, information services (e.g. library, maps, internet page) about Himalayan mountaineering, and the publication of the well-renowned yearly “Himalayan Journal” and members newsletters. More about the club on www.himalayanclub.org.

The club has some 900 members, of which ca. 500 are Indians, and the other 400 foreign members all around the world, with the main foreign member community in Britain. The main club seat is in Mumbai, the two other important Indian sections are placed in Kolkata and Delhi. There is some atmosphere of competition between these three Indian Club Centres, mainly between Mumbai and Kolkata. The club is based on the statutes of 1928, which have been altered several times since then; however, the general clubs objectives remained unchanged, although things in the Himalaya have changed so much since then. The club is led by a sixteen member management committee composed of three representatives from Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata, one of them as president, a honorary secretary, a honorary treasurer and 11 ordinary committee members. In addition there are 8 “officers” (among them the editor of the journal and the webmaster), and 27



“honorary local secretaries”, 12 of them Indian and 15 from 12 different other countries around the world. The editor of the Journal is a central person in the club.

The member base of the club is very small, and one of the future challenges will be to consider new member target groups. We have the impression that the management structures are quite old fashioned and complicated. The latent competition between the three main club centres Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai seem to be potentially delicate for the effective management of the club.

We do not have insight into the financial situation of the club. Regarding the member fees it becomes clear that the club has no extra finances to start another substantial commitment with need of substantial finances, as environmental work. Evidently the private sector sponsors club's events as for example the 80th year celebrations. Therefore to start environmental work also means to generate new money.

We think that the small member base, the lacking personal and financial resources are weak points for a start into environmental project work. On the other hand, the clear commitment of the leading members, the existing network of good connections, the positive image of the Himalayan Journal and the international members are strong points.

5. Steps towards Environmental Commitment

We present a series of measures we think should be considered and decided about by the Himalayan Club management committee quite soon. We believe that after all the years of discussion it is now crucial to actually make some very specific steps in order to really proceed towards environmental project work of the club. As already stated above, the most important base is there, i.e. the unambiguous wish of the leading exponents of the club to engage into environmental work.

The discussions of February 15th showed to different concepts for a start-up. The first heads for an immediate and dynamic start of a specific project, in order to prove that it is possible, that results can be produced and to bring a boost of motivation into the club for further action. The second aims to proceed step by step and carefully setting the necessary base (guidelines, structure, funding concept...), evaluating the actual environmental problems and the possible range of projects, and only then start into a first project. Both concepts have their strong and weak points. We clearly prefer the second concept for the following reasons.

- Without a good foundation in the whole club a long-term commitment might not happen
- The risk to stumble into troubles (wrong project, financial problems) is high
- Danger to create only a flash in the pan

However, if there come up brilliant ideas and opportunities for a very good project, these should in no way be ignored! It is absolutely possible to launch a good project and at the same time begin to set the base for long-term work in parallel. But we would not try to start with a project only. So the following propositions follow the second concept.

For good environmental project work should be based on corresponding guidelines, clear goals, good structures, enough finances and competent people. In the Himalayan Club Brochure of 1994 there is a short but excellent article by your former president Aspie Moddie, in which he presents a very clear and straightforward checklist of Self-Questioning about all the factors which have to be clarified before you start – like the expedition plan, budget and packing list of a big Himalayan climbing expedition. We integrate A. Moddie's reflections into our own propositions.

We stressed repeatedly at the meetings of 15. – 17th of February, that environmental work will always bring up differences of opinion and controversial discussions. This is even more true in a club like the Himalayan Club, which is primarily a mountaineering and mountain sports club, and this means a club which wants to use the Himalayan landscape and nature for it's activities. This results in a natural conflict potential – i.e. questions of free access vs. conservation. The club leaders



have to be prepared for such discussions. Our experience shows that solid written base documents help a lot to avoid unnecessary discussions and to find decisions about controversial points.

5.1 Guidelines

Environmental work needs a good and unambiguous base in written form, in the form of statutes, guidelines and other relevant documents, which have to be adopted by the General Assembly. The Swiss Alpine Club has general environmental positions in its main guidelines, and a special document called "Guidelines SAC and Environment" with detailed positions and lines of action, as well as further positions to specific subjects. Without such documents a organisation will always get stuck in fruitless fundamental discussions.

We consider the following approach for the Himalayan Club:

1. Revision of the statutes of 1928, reformulate the general club objectives according to the situation of today and the challenges of tomorrow (see also chapter 5.1.)
2. Work on a document of about 2 – 4 pages, "Himalayan environment and sustainable development – positions of the Himalayan Club".

This second paper should address the following points:

- Which is the Himalayan Club's self-understanding related to environment and sustainable development – why does the club commit to these subject's?
- Which is the primary region of concern and commitment (Only India? Only above tree line? Only Himalaya or also mountains & crags all over India?....)
- What are the main environmental problems and challenges in the Himalaya today and tomorrow?
- Which of these problems are included in Himalayan Club's environmental work primarily, secondarily, not at all? (e.g. will mountain forests be in the primary focus?)
- Short positions of the Himalayan Club to the problems in focus.
- How is the environmental work organised, what are the main decision paths?
- How is the environmental work financed?
- How does the Himalayan Club cooperate with other organisations and stakeholders?
- Does the Himalayan Club raise its voice towards government and in political issues related to the Himalayan environment and sustainable development? If yes how?

Jürg Meyer would help creating a draft of such a document. With the knowledge of the leading exponents of the Himalayan Club such a document could be produced in quite a short time.

5.2 Structures and Environmental Commission

Again to avoid unclear situations and conflicts a set of basic structural organisation has to be created. Maybe the Himalayan Club takes this as opportunity to have a critical look at its overall present organisation (see chapter 5.3). The management handbook can serve as source of inspiration, as we are convinced that the SAC managing director, Peter Mäder, would be willing to give some advice as well. We propose the following minimal structural framework:

1. A member of the main managing committee is appointed responsible for environment and sustainable development.
2. A commission on environment and sustainable development is created.

Commission on environment and sustainable development

3 – 5 core members: Representative of the management committee and 2-4 well respected members of the club, with different backgrounds (not only environmental). It would be ideal to get members which do not live too far away from each other, because 1 – 3 meetings per year would be es-



sential. A Mumbai – based commission seems to be natural since the club headquarters are in Mumbai anyway.

Furthermore it would be useful to create an operative board of the environment, consisting of the environment responsible in the managing committee, the environment commission president and the professional environment responsible.

5 – 10 consulting members: Members or non-members which have specific specialist and / or scientific background essential for the environmental commitment of the club (as stated in the guidelines), and which are willing to consult the commission.

The core commission has to work according to a duty&rights document which has to be created by itself as first step of its work and approved by the management committee. Jürg Meyer would help to draft such a document. The second step should be to set up a multiannual planning, an annual planning and a budget – all to be approved by the management committee or even the General Assembly.

The Himalayan Club should reflect on the possibility to cover the expenses of such a commission (mainly travel costs). It is usual worldwide that members doing voluntary work have their necessary expenses paid by the organisation.

The member of the MC responsible for environmental questions and the core commission must form a highly motivated and dedicated core unit. In this starting phase it is essential to have good leadership and few members – or even one member only – who are willing to push and pull, who go for the environmental adventure of the Himalayan Club with enthusiasm and persistence.

5.3 Himalayan environment: Situation Analysis and Project Proposals

During the discussions in Mumbai in February 08 we often heard “there is so much to do – where could or should we begin?” Indeed, looking at the sheer dimensions of the whole or only the Indian Himalaya and all the different aspects of environment and sustainable development, there is a vast range of challenges to be tackled, problems to be solved. It is clear that such a relatively small club like the Himalayan Club cannot be everywhere and do everything – a good choice of projects and project regions is essential for a success and for the credibility and image of the club.

We think that the environmental commission and the managing committee of the Himalayan Club need a report with a situation analysis and a choice of possible fields and project proposals for it’s own environmental work in the next years. Only on the base of such an analysis can the committee really decide with the necessary information and background.

The report should address the following issues:

- Summary of the main environmental challenges and problems in the Himalaya, with special focus to the Indian Himalaya
- Summary on the environmental laws and politics in India relevant to the Himalaya
- Summary on Himalaya tourism (including pilgrimage tourism), and on expedition and trekking activities
- Summary of the main ecological impacts and problems related to expedition and trekking activities
- Overview over existing governmental and non-governmental environmental / sustainability projects in the Indian Himalaya.
- Overview over non-governmental organisations active in the Himalaya, including contact persons and actual projects (establish a modest databank)
- Summary of existing level and projects for sustainable expedition and trekking activities, with an first assessment of cooperation possibilities for the Himalayan Club
- Assessment of funding possibilities for environmental projects in the Indian Himalaya (government, private industry, Indian NGO’s, foreign NGO’s, Indian and foreign trusts and foundations)
- Proposition of main fields of action for environmental work of the Himalayan Club



- A list of project proposals, each with following points: goal, stakeholders, area, time frame, needed human and finance resources, possible partners, strong & weak points, communication possibilities,

This report should be created by a paid person (see 3.4. below) under the guidance of the environmental commission. Scientific consulting, information and contacts should be provided by the consulting members of the commission (see 3.2). Of course quite a wealth of published materials on the subject already exists, so the work would also include a literature research. Furthermore there are quite numerous scientific and non-governmental organisations which also can provide background, knowledge and information. Access to these bodies should be helped by the consulting members of the commission. In the case of international organisations with seats outside India Himalayan Club members of the respective countries can be asked for help. To some extent the main author of this paper can also give support (e.g. to the Mountain Research Institute).

5.4 Professional staff

The issue of professional staff was discussed quite intensely and it seemed to us that most Himalayan Club exponents approved the need of some professional support.

The club has no paid staff up to now – even the edition of the Himalayan Journal can be done, thanks to lucky circumstances, on a voluntary base. The “core business” of the club is mountaineering. So the logical question would be: why not first get some professional work for the core business? We believe that there are good reasons against this. For the active members of the club mountaineering is their primary goal for their free time. So it is quite natural for them to engage for this mountaineering in their free time, irrespective if this happens to be for only themselves, or for some friends, or for the club. Of course this does not mean that the club could not sooner or later come to the conclusion that it needs some paid professional work for the mountaineering as well. However, our impression is that up to now the mountaineering core business works quite well with the voluntary resources.

But all those members who already do work for the mountaineering and expeditions in the club have no more free resources to get also involved in other work – e.g. environmental projects. And everybody agreed that good environmental work has to be done professionally, otherwise it might get stuck too soon. Therefore we think that it is almost unavoidable to create some professional human resources. On the other hand we understand, that with the existing financial situation of the club there are substantial hesitations to create a paid post in the form of “a Mr. Meyer of the Himalayan Club”, as Aamir Ali once expressed it.

We propose a more flexible and less expensive model. The club could employ a young graduate student in environmental sciences (environment, biology, geography...) who has also mountaineering experience, for a 1 to 2 year period based on quite a modest salary. According to T. Kilachand and others Rs 25'000 – 30'000 (USD 600 – 800) per month should be considered. The commission would be the instructional body for this specialist, and the environment representative of the management committee it's direct boss.

The first task of this person would be to research and prepare the situation analyses and project proposals of chapter 3.3., as well as communication and networking.

5.5 Finances and Funding

Good environmental projects need money, paid staff needs money, even voluntary work needs money (travel costs). It is crucial that the HC has quite clear ideas what the financial dimensions of his planned environmental work has and what possibilities of funding exist.

Based on the work plan and budget of chapter 6 we deduce a need of cash for the next three years of around 50'000 USD for the basic preparatory work and some start-up financing of first projects. The money needed for projects of course depends on the kind of project. We proposed to budget a sum of 15'000 USD to create the possibility to start into one or two projects in the next years.



Money for specific projects is normally easier to raise than money for permanent work like commission work, paid permanent staff etc. As the HC has excellent contacts with the Indian Merchant Chamber, this organisation or single member enterprises could be partners covering some financial needs for future projects. But we doubt that the IMC or firms would be willing to help with a sort of start-up financing of the environmental work of the HC as presented in this paper.

Environmental Fund

We therefore developed another idea. We propose the HC to create an “environmental fund” by raising money mainly at its members abroad. Aamir Ali, Trevor Braham and Jürg Meyer would initiate this fundraising action, of course in close cooperation with the management committee, and in the name of the HC. We believe that one of the tasks of members of the HC outside India could be to share their responsibility with the problems and challenges in the Himalaya by making a financial contribution to this HC environmental fund. There are about 400 members outside India. We estimate that about $\frac{1}{4}$ of these would contribute an average sum of about 500 USD, which would make up 50'000 USD. The HC should consider a special “club of environmental donators” to thank the main contributors.

We would also try to get further funding by the environmental fund of the SAC, by the Swiss foundation for non-alpine research and others. We think that in this way we will be able to generate some 50 – 80'000 USD within the next two years. The IMC and specific firms in India should also be contacted for a contribution to this fund. This has to be done via the existing network of the HC.

With such a start-up capital the club could easily cover the first three years according to the propositions of this paper and get involved in first specific projects. Then the club could decide again on a continuation, correction or abandon of the environmental work.

Long-term funding

The three start-up years would allow to consider the possibilities of the long-term finances carefully. Main objective would be to establish a long-term financing of a paid post. One of the tasks of this person would be fundraising for the future specific projects of the club. We propose that a future permanent paid person should be financed by a mix of money. Something like $\frac{1}{3}$ from member fees, $\frac{1}{6}$ from private industry, $\frac{1}{6}$ from government funds, $\frac{1}{3}$ over projects could be realistic.

5.6 Network and Synergies

Since the Himalayan club is a small organisation and the Himalaya with its different environmental challenges is huge, it is crucial for successful work to join forces whenever possible. Of course it is sometimes important to manage and finish an environmental project by one's own forces – this produces self-confidence and a positive image, but often it makes more sense to cooperate with other organisations. Or an organisation can manage a project on its own, but this is embedded in a program of larger dimension which is directed by other organisations or government bodies.

The proposed analysis report of chapter 5.3. should give the HC responsables a good overview over all other players, their significance and their projects. Based on this the club can decide about cooperation with other organisations.

However, mutual information about ongoing initiatives and projects is crucial. This makes know how transfer easier, it helps to avoid unnecessary parallel projects and to embed own projects in a more general context. So the Environment Commission should build up informal connections with all relevant national and international organisations (IMF; HET, WWF, IUCN etc...) active in the Indian Himalaya, to the relevant government bodies and to important economic circles (tourism, energy, forestry, etc.).

We would also encourage the Himalayan Club very much to get involved into the umbrella organisations of mountaineering. The UAAA (Union of Asian Alpine Associations) unites all mountaineering clubs of Asia from Pakistan to Japan. And of course there is the UIAA (International Mountain-



eering Association) which is the most important world wide umbrella organisation. The UIAA is now in a crucial transformation process towards a modern and more dynamic organisation, and as far we can see it now environment issues will be one of it's main issues. The "official" Indian member in the UIAA is the IMF, but other associate members are welcome as well. All necessary information is available on the UIAA website www.theuiaa.org. A membership of the most traditional mountaineering club of the subcontinent would certainly be appreciated world-wide. And the club could benefit from the possibilities of the UIAA, which is mainly information, networking, publicity.

5.7 Projects

Based on the lecture of Jürg Meyer on February 17th we present a range of possible environmental projects which could be addressed by the HC. This is a very preliminary and somewhat also arbitrary choice, and one of the main objectives of the report proposed in chapter 3.3 would be the presentation of a more sound and comprehensive list of project proposals. We include this list anyway as a starting point.

A. Inter - Himalayan projects

Environmental issues do not stop at national boundaries. Therefore they should be tackled by transboundary coordination, collaboration and projects. I know how difficult the situation is in the Himalayas – just think of the India – Pakistan – China tensions in Kashmir and Karakoram. But nevertheless initiatives of transboundary efforts can – and must! - be undertaken by non-political bodies as mountaineering clubs.

1. Himalayan convention

A "Himalayan Convention" after the concept of the Alpine Convention would be an incredible vehicle of trans-boundary cooperation, which is crucial for the future of environmental management of the Himalayas. This would be at least a 20-year project. A similar convention is under way for the Caucasus mountain range. Trans-boundary river management would be one of the very important issues of such a convention. The use and management of waters from rivers out of mountain ranges will get a crucial topic in future, probably much sharpened by climate change. Solutions can only be found by transboundary cooperation.

2. Himalaya Map of protected areas

The Himalayan Club could initiate a map of the whole Himalaya with the most valuable areas which should be protected, analogous to SAC map of 1969 and the one now in process again. This should be done in collaboration with tourism, energy, agriculture, forest, military and conservation representatives.

3. Natural hazards

The Himalayan Club could engage in collaboration with research institutions to help in fieldwork support and other co-operation.

4. Activate UAAA

The Himalayan Club could initiate such environmental issues within the UAAA and help establish a permanent environmental structure and activities of this Asian umbrella organisation. Maybe the existing Himalayan Countries Mountaineering Association as well as the Himalayan Environmental Trust should be integrated into this framework.

B. Regional and local Projects in touristic areas of the Indian Himalaya

There is a wide range of possibilities for local and regional projects, where a organisation like the HC could act as initiator or project leader. However, most of such projects have much better chances for success when they are done in collaboration with other organisations.

5. Environmental standards for HC expeditions

Draft and adopt a simple check list with environmental issues for HC's own expeditions and outings. Funding by the club will only be given when proof of fulfilment of these standards is given. In this way the club goes ahead and gives a clear signal that it means it seriously with its own environmental commitment.



6. Partnership with parks and other valuable sites

The Himalayan Club could take over a special responsibility and commitment for an important touristic / mountaineering region. Aamir Ali and others suggested the Nanda Devi National park.

7. “Himalayan Eco Prize”

The Himalayan Club could develop a “Himalayan Eco Prize” for expeditions or trekking organisations in collaboration with the outdoor industry and with the UIAA which has ideas of developing an environmental label. Such a prize could then be developed into a competitive label like for example the Max Havelaar Label for tropical food products or the FSC-Label for sustainably produced wood which both are economic successes in Europe.

8. Waste and pollution projects

The Himalayan Club could identify regions where waste and pollution from tourism and/or pilgrimage are an issue and start very practical projects to improve the situation. Examples of such regions and project concepts are presented in the above mentioned booklet of your club from 1994.

9. Teaching book “The Himalayas – see, know, understand”

The Himalayan Club could initiate the production of a book like our “Lebenswelt Alpen” which could be widely used for the training and creating awareness among tourist guides, schools, tourists, expeditions. This could be a first project of a UAAA environmental commission.

10. Training of guides and porters

The Himalayan Club could initiate and lead training programmes for sustainable tourism and local environmental protection for Sirdars, liaison officers, local guides, porters and other tourism stakeholders like trekking agencies owners. Forget the old liaison officer and make it an environmental officer! In mid-terms environmental training must become compulsory for all such stakeholders. Today Swiss mountain guides have a full week of intense training in nature and environment!

11. Local CO₂ reduction

Together with other partners The Himalayan Club engages in local CO₂ reduction projects, e.g. to make better wood fires for cooking or substitute them with solar cookers.

C. Networking and know how transfer

12. Join forces!

This is probably the most important proposition. For example why not propose a paid professional for Himalayan Environment projects who works for the Himalayan Club, the Himalayan Environmental Trust and the Indian Mountaineering Association together – with shared costs and a shared Environment Commission. Competition is important and nice, but sometimes collaboration is better! It is like on the mountain: when the going gets tough and the conditions precarious, its better to join up and forget the competitor....

13. UIAA

Collaboration with the UIAA, its expedition, mountain protection and access & conservation commissions. One project could be to build up an information platform about the Himalayas within the framework of the existing UIAA Website.

14. Know how transfer

Exchange with experts from alpine environmental projects. Mutual visits and look at specific projects. Check out possible collaboration with and support from European, East Asian or American clubs for Himalayan environmental projects.



6. Work Plan and Budget

6.1 Work Plan 2008 - 2010

We tried to transfer all the propositions of chapter 5 into a work plan, which gives a “road map” for the next three years for the relevant bodies of the club.

Time	Environment Commission	Managing Committee	General Assembly	Professional	J. Meyer & A. Ali
General Tasks	Work on strategies, guidelines. Guide professional. Propose to MC	Operative lead of HC. Decide about proposals of Envir. Comm.	Decision about strategic issues and finances / budget	Work on environmental projects corresponding to the Envir. Comm..	Consultants. Fundraising outside India.
2008		Decide about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new environment commission and environment responsible in MC • HC Environment Fund • installation of a HC environmental fund • next steps 	1st phase: preparation and decision		Present discussion paper for environment work of HC, based on meetings and discussions of Feb 15.-17.
	Starting up 1st meeting: Discuss Paper JM & AA, modify into own work plan. Draft management guidelines for commission work Draft HC Environmental Guidelines	Controlling of commission set up and work			Start fundraising for HC environment fund Consult on Environment Commission work
	Search and evaluate Professional for 1 – 2 year mandate Propose management and environment guidelines to MC Plan media work for new profile of HC	Decide about revision of general objectives in HC statutes. Discuss and adopt management and environment guidelines. Approve employment of professional Approve media work			Report on fundraising
2009	Employ environmental professional Guidance and consulting of professional Support MC and professional in fundraising Work on environmental standards for HC expeditions	Start Fundraising in India (→ network!)	Adopt revised general objectives in statutes Adopt environmental guidelines	Sign contract with HC Start work on Situation and project analysis	Continuation of consulting and fundraising
				Help with Fundraising and media work. Present report and project proposals to Envir. Commission	
2010	Discuss and adopt report Discuss project proposals			Work on Standards for HC Expeditions Make concepts for chosen projects	Continuation of consulting and fundraising
	Discuss and adopt project concepts, present them to MC Discuss permanent post for environment officer; chose person Establish pluriannual and annual planning including budget.	Discuss and adopt project concepts and permanent post for environment officer, if positive → approve person proposed by Envir. Comm. Approve pluriannual and annual planning and budget	Approve pluriannual and annual planning and budget	Same or new professional: Start implementing the chosen projects	Check possibilities of project partnerships with European mountaineering clubs Implement project partnerships
	Guide and consult project work of professional,	Help with fundraising for projects		Fundraising for projects	
2011+	Ongoing commission work according to guidelines.	Ongoing controlling and operative decisions	Yearly planning / budget approval	On going project work	Ongoing consulting if wanted / needed.



6.2 Budget 2008 - 2010

We propose a rough budget for the following three years under the assumption that our proposed road map is followed and a paid young professional is being employed for two years 2009 – 2010. This budget certainly has to be looked at very critically by the Environment Commission, because we do not have the necessary knowledge of Indian circumstances and conditions.

Nr	Item	USD
1	Salary paid environmental officer for 2009 - 2010: 12 x 2 x 800 USD	19'200
2	Insurances and other compulsory costs for paid specialist	2'000
3	Travel and other costs (hardware, telephone, ...) for paid specialist	4'000
4	Travel and other costs for Environment Commission 2008 – 2010: 1'500 / year	4'500
5	Communication (Internet, Media, Flyers...)	2'000
6	Layout & Print of Report	1'000
7	Start-up finances for 1 - 2 environmental projects	15'000
8	Reserve	3'000
9	Total 2008 - 2010	50'700

The first main budget post is the salary for the specialist, which we based on a monthly sum of 800 USD. The second is the sum of USD 15'000 foreseen as start-up for specific projects. Of course each project has to be planned with a separate budget, but we thought it to be useful to plan some start-up finances.

As discussed in 5.5, we are quite confident that the resulting overall sum of 50'000 USD can be generated by an international fundraising mainly at the foreign HC members.

7. Other Issues for the Himalayan Club

During the discussions in Mumbai it became clear that the commitment of the club into future environmental work brings up some other issues of more general character, which would be useful to consider by the Managing Committee.

7.1 Revision of Club's Objectives in Statutes

The only basic set of general objectives of the HC are the very short statements in the statutes:

To encourage and assist Himalayan travel and exploration, and to extend knowledge of the Himalaya and adjoining mountain ranges through science, art, literature and sport.

These general objectives remained unchanged since the club foundation in 1928. But the development since then was enormous, tourism, mountaineering, society, economy – everything has changed very much since then. We therefore propose to the club to reformulate its general objectives in the statutes completely, and, even better, to create a short document of general guidelines which serve as “road map” for the club's activities in the next 10 to 15 years.

We think that the general objectives should consider and include the following issues

- Support of mountaineering and expeditions with high ethical, social and environmental standards for club members
- Provide information on mountaineering and trekking in the Himalayas and all over India for everybody
- Keep technical and security standards of mountaineering activities at high level
- Engage in projects of environment protection and sustainable development in the Himalaya
- Educate mountaineers and stake holders on mountain nature, culture, environment.



7.2 Structures & Headquarters

The existing structures of the club should probably be revised and simplified. With the installation of an Environment Commission the question about other commission arises. The positions, tasks and rights of commissions have to be clarified. The structural model of the SAC and other european clubs could serve as a model.

It should furthermore be clear that the club has one main seat or headquarter. The connection with the other clubs have to be clear, and it has to be assured that democratic principles of club life are not undermined.

7.3 Membership and Member fees

Considering the clubs commitment for environmental work a broader member base would of course be very useful, not only for financial reasons. An opening of the club for more people and target groups is an important strategic issue and has to be discussed extensively, advantages and drawbacks have to be considered carefully.

Possible new target groups could be

- Young Indian climbers and hikers
- Hiking families
- International trekkers and mountaineers
- Trekking and expedition business people
- Older / richer people outside India as supporters

7.4 UIAA membership

Reasons and some aspects of an UIAA membership were already presented in chapter 5.6.

8. Appendix

1. Lecture Jürg Meyer of February 17th in Mumbai
2. Article by Aspie D. Moddie 1994

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