

MOUNT EVEREST FOUNDATION



MEF Environmental Code of Practice for Expeditions

All expeditions are expected to be aware of, and make every effort to address, environmental and social impacts. Please set out a brief summary of your plans in Section 15 of the application. An analysis of how your plans worked in practice, and the outcome, should appear in the final report to inform future expeditions.

The MEF encourages expeditions to make a commitment, where possible, to

- (a) addressing its social and cultural impact by acting in an ethical, responsible, and safe manner towards the visited communities and all other local stakeholders. Specifically, this means that expeditions should:
 - familiarise themselves with the local customs and cultures, and abide by these appropriately.
 - use local staff and pay them directly, without a middleman, in countries where this is possible
 - pay fair wages to porters, sherpas, and other local service providers, taking advice from recent expeditions to the area and/or local people.
 - stay in local accommodation (as opposed to internationally-run hotels) and buy local products
 - avoid discrimination of any sort
- (b) Addressing its environmental impact during planning, preparation, and throughout the time in the field by:
 - Having a waste management strategy in place.
 - Undertaking a carbon audit of the expedition: once you have completed an audit, please explain how you might reduce your carbon footprint and any options you have taken to provide carbon offset. A rule of thumb is that all flights taken by the expedition (including internal) are likely to account for 90% of the carbon footprint. Sites that can help you with these calculations include:

Climate Care <https://climatecare.org/calculator/> is an Oxford-based company which does similar things to myclimate.org and offers advice on cutting energy consumption and reducing your carbon footprint.

Myclimate <https://www.myclimate.org/> is a Swiss offsetting non-profit with a market-oriented approach that allows the user to calculate their offset charge not just for travel but also at home and then choose individual projects to mitigate those impacts

Atmosfair <https://www.atmosfair.de/en/offset/flight/> is a German site for airline travel which offers an excellent selection including seat classes and aircraft types, plus a full justification of projects supported.

There are many sites that offer offset options. You might consider one of these:

The BMC Climate Project <https://intouch.thebmc.co.uk/the-climate-project/> supports peat bog restoration in the Peak District: <https://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/> through planting of sphagnum moss. Another UK based scheme is the Scottish afforestation project Trees for Life <https://treesforlife.org.uk/> dedicated to re-wilding the Scottish Highlands. This scheme is also accredited by the Woodland Carbon Code. Like peatland restoration, this project has the advantage of improving biodiversity as well as sequestering carbon.

However, If you opt for tree planting, it is worth considering that better value may be gained choosing schemes in Africa and/or South America. Here are two options:

Tree Aid: www.treeaid.org <<http://www.treeaid.org> <<http://www.treeaid.org>>

Trees for the Future: www.trees.org <<http://www.trees.org> <<http://www.trees.org>>

Both plant mostly in Africa and are linked to agro-forestry and good land / farming practices.

You may also wish to investigate ways to verify the impact of your offset. We include a few of them here:

The Gold Standard <https://www.goldstandard.org/> provides certification for projects demonstrating positive impacts on the climate and progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Another can be found here: <https://verra.org/project/vcs-program/> In the UK, the Woodland Carbon Code <https://www.woodlandcarboncode.org.uk/> and Peatland Code <https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/peatland-code-0> are Government backed standards under which carbon credits are currently being sold.