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Protecting the World's Deepest Gorge: Community-based River Conservation

Future Generations cultivates the capacity of people to create an equitable and enduring future. As a non-profit organization and graduate school in applied community change and conservation, the global reach of Future Generations extends to more than 7,000 communities in 19 countries.

All auction proceeds will provide training and support for conservation and ecotourism along the Siang River in Arunachal Pradesh, India.

These photos describe some of the community-based activities underway along the river corridor.



As the river enters India, it carves a gorge four-times deeper than the Grand Canyon. This

river valley, known as the Siang, creates some of the greatest river rapids on earth. Guided river rafting could provide a growing source of income for local people. The photo below is provided courtesy of Fluid Light Images and River India, taken as part of a 2007 global kayaking expedition down the Siang.



Along the upper east bank of the Siang, tribal communities of Arunachal Pradesh, India organized a village-wide planning meeting with government partners and Future Generations to establish the Eko Dhumbing Community Forestry Reserve. This new protected area, the size of Rhode Island, includes intact subtropical forest and many rare species. Activities will include local biodiversity monitoring and training for local trekking guides.



This photo, the first ever taken of the clouded leopard in the wild, was taken with an infrared camera trap as part of a Future Generations initiative to train local people in biodiversity monitoring. This photo by Jesse Oak Taylor-Ide first appeared in *National Geographic* magazine, September 2000.

Arunachal Pradesh, India contains among the greatest concentrations of floral and faunal diversity in southeast Asia. It is the heart of what is known as the eastern Himalayan hotspot.



Along the Siang are significant cultural traditions, knowledge, and skills. Arunachal is unparalleled in its diversity of tribal culture. The famous Siang River Festival in the town of

Pasighat celebrates the diversity of the 10 major tribal groups, with more than 30 ethnically distinct subgroupings.



Future Generations initiates community-based activities in the Siang river valley through our local partner organization, Future Generations Arunachal (FGA). With more than 800 volunteers and 100 women's groups and farmer's clubs, FGA helps local groups organize self-help projects that integrate community development with conservation.

