To,

1. The Ld. district Magistrate, Darjeeling
2. The Divisional Forest Officer, Darjeeling Wildlife Division

Dated: 5/6/18

Sub: Proposed guidelines for protection, prevention and redressal of the environment pollution in and around Dhotrey/Maneybhanjan-Phalut and/or Sanghalila Trek Circuit

Dear Sir,

Prameya Foundation, a non-governmental organization has been established with the aim to foster environmental sustainability through community empowerment initiatives and for the protection, prevention and redressal of environmental pollution. We seek to deepen scientific understanding of changing the world and to develop the strategies and tools to address the threats to nature and human survival.

At the inception we would like to bring to your notice that every year more than 10000 hikers and backpackers from all over the world visit our Himalayan Trek Circuit starting from the town of Maneybhanjan and from the forest village of Dhotrey and ending at Srikhola. It has been chosen as one of the most beautiful trek routes in India and also the World providing a majestic, serene view of the Kachanjunga Range and also of the mighty Mt. Everest, Mt. Lhotse and Mt. Makalu. It is one of our most irreplaceable assets and thus it needs our attention to maintain her beauty.

This Trek circuit is also part of the Singalila National Park, which is a biodiversity hot spot for various endangered species like the Red Panda, Himalayan Black Bear, Clouded leopard etc. The NP falls under a separate
biotic province of our country and represents a distinct gene pool. Further it showcases some unique species of temperate and alpine forest with wide variety biota of the attitudinal variation, diversity, naturalness as conservation unit. Hence, it becomes our duty not only to protect this national park but also to create a harmonious co-existence between man and nature.

On behalf of our Ngo and under the suggestions and instructions of the people at large, we pray for your kind indulgence in the following aspects:

1. **BANNING THROWAWAY SINGLE USE PLASTIC BOTTLES AND POLYTHENE**

The first step in having a clean environment is banning of plastic and/or polythene. As we all know plastic takes approximately 450-1000 years to degrade, it is of primary importance that all plastic and polythene related products be completely banned along the entire route.

2. **SAY NO TO LITTER**

Littering not only disrupts the balance of nature but also destroys the beauty of the place. Mother Earth has provided us with this breathtaking scenario; hence it is totally our duty to maintain the cleanliness of the place. Wastes and throwaways should be dumped at specific places and clean at regular intervals.

3. **PUBLIC BIO TOILETS**

Public toilets hold a very crucial stand in maintaining the cleanliness of any place. Providing of public bio toilets thus becomes a must. Public bio toilets will not only prevent the pungent odour but also will maintain the decency of mankind and at the same time provide manure and gases for the community. There shall be public bio toilets at Dhotrey, Tumling, Gairibas and Sandakphu, the cleanliness of which is to be maintained by the concerned Public Authorities.
4. MEDICAL AND EMERGENCY FACILITIES

As more than 10000 hikers and backpackers visit the said trek route in a year, accidents, mishaps and high altitude sickness are common. In such premises, it is proposed that medical facilities along with two ambulances be stationed one at Tumling and the other at Sandakphu. This will also benefit the locals.

5. WASTE SEGREGATION BINS IN HOMESTAYS

Every homestay should have separate waste bins, namely biodegradable wastes and non-biodegradable wastes. Each such bin should also have stick ons relating to examples of bio degradable wastes and non-biodegradable wastes, so as to make it completely easy for the common people to understand the difference of such segregation. The most crucial point of such bins should be the manner in which they are cleaned and the place where such wastes are dumped. The whole purpose shall fail if biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes are dumped at the same open point. Composting must be encouraged. Much care and standardization should be taken. The concerned authorities must ensure their implementation.

6. INSTALLATION AND MAINTAINANCE OF PUBLIC WASTE BINS

Waste bins should be provided at every 100 meters along the entire trek route. As we all know, hikers and backpackers carry candies, food products which are primarily consumed during the trek. The throwaways of such food products must strictly be dumped at the specific bins. These bins must are to be maintained and wastes are to be collected by the concerned authorities at regular intervals.

7. ‘GREEN TAX FUND’

The persons who are travelling by public or private vehicles to Sandakphu or Phalut or the adjoining areas within the Singalila national park must pay a very reasonable sum of money as contribution on the principle of ‘Polluter Pays’. Thus, every truck, bus and vehicle of any kind which passes through the route ahead of Manebhanjan or the adjoining areas shall be liable to pay a sum of money for heavy vehicles and for light vehicles respectively (which is to be proposed by local organizations or as decided by the government). This token tax is to be collected at Manebhanjan and at Dhotrey by community
organizations (as per discussion) and shall be used for the purpose of planting
trees, installing Catalytic Convertors in vehicles and other such eco activities.

There shall be two checkpoints for this purpose viz. One at Dhotrey and
another at Manebhanjan respectively.

8. REPAIR OF SRIKHOLA BRIDGE

As your goodself is aware that a bridge connecting both the ends at Srikhola is
in a condition which requires instant attention. The said bridge needs repair at
the earliest. In such circumstances, it is prayed before your goodself that such
repair works be carried out at the earliest.

We as a NGO appeal to your goodself to kindly look in the above mentioned
suggestions and bring them into effect as policies and/or principles which are
to be followed on a strict basis, at the earliest. It is also pertinent to mention
that our organization will fully participate in the implementation of these
policies. It is high time we as prudent citizens of India give our attention and
sacrifice our greed to protect the only home we have.

In the premises abovesaid, we hope such measures will be taken at the earliest.
Thanking you in anticipation. Also find enclosed herewith a signature sheet of
the local community, hikers and/or backpackers supporting our cause.

Regards,

Prameya Foundation.

Enclosed as above.
DAWA SHERPA RAIYANKATA

Sangyed Sherpa, KalayPokhun (Pandim lodge)

Phurpa Gangpa Sherpa (KalayPokhun)

Tseri Lepa Sherpa (KalayPokhun)

Chewang Bhtu (KalayPokhun)

Mamadal B. Sumuwar " M B S"

Sanjen Rai " "

Gauri Sherpa

Rupan Giri

Bhup Baray Shrestha

Khalpa Sherpa, KalayPokhun Himachal Pradesh

Samden Sherpa

Dorjee Sherpa

Pasang Shampa

Chabi Tser Sherpa
Aali
CALAPOKHREI
Sandalpho
Samaak Pho
Bimthekpar
Sandaak Pho
Gundum
Gundum
Gundum
2) Ashok Tamang

3) Posha Mulkhia

4) Bimal Rai

5) Khimay Rai

6) Jarry Tamang

7) Thuring Chhupa

8) Gauri, Khirlai

9) Khambar Chhiring

10) Pasang Tamang

11) Pendeep Tamang

12) Roshan Chhetri

13) Lalopa Lama Sherpa

14) Sunesh Chhetri

15) Indra Chhetri
Sopi (Lippohochha Homestay)

1. Pabitra Rai
2. Puli
3. Himanta
4. Ganga Rai
5. फुडा राइ
6. निका शेपा
7. Gangu Raí
8. Abino Raí
92 Ganesh Chhetri
93 Samee Tamang
94 Birend Tamang
95 Sunil Tamang
96 Pabitra
97 Pabitra
98 Sunil Shehnaal
99 Priyanka Rai
100 Amar Tamang
101 Norbu Sherpa
102 Donia
103 Nitesh Tamang
104 Tewa Tamang
105 Akalpa Sherpa
106 Phuna Sherpa
107 Ang MENU Chetri Sherpa
108 Saruta bai Tamang
109 Pema Wangdi Tamang
110 Kalpana Khana
111 Sumita Sherpa
112 Reeta Sherpa
113 Japa
114 Amrita Rai
115 Reu Tamang
116 Reu Tamang