



your eye on Voluntourism

iVt is a multi-dimensional, web-based platform which will assist in the collection and sharing of voluntourism related data while leveraging the power of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), new social networking media such as Twitter and Facebook, and SmartPhone technology.

Datasets will be broadly available making them easier to systematically evaluate, synthesize and analyze for the purpose of planning, coordination, gap analysis, prioritisation, strategic decision-making, monitoring, and the creation of a common situational awareness.

The iVt platform will consist of three distinct yet connected portals;



iVt maps

bringing voluntourism down to earth

With a rich mapping display, an abundance of key data-sets, and the ability to build custom spatial queries, iVtmaps gives you the power to better answer questions and examine relationships.

As a voluntourist, you want to have a great holiday while also taking some time to help out. Knowing where things are is vital when it comes to planning and making your trip a success.



Combining pertinent data from the voluntourism and travel industries, integrating leading indicators, and applying the visual and analytical strengths of GIS, users can geo-target areas of interest from both a tourist's/volunteer's perspective and more effectively plan their voluntourism adventure.

iVtmaps makes it easier to plan your trip while taking into account your particular interests, needs, and values.

What is Voluntourism?

Voluntourism is the integrated combination of voluntary service to a destination with the traditional elements of travel and tourism while in the destination. Simply put, voluntourism is the going somewhere on a holiday and helping someone or something.

A move towards true integration. Why?

With world population on the rise, so are the pressures on sustainable development. As global society becomes more aware of development issues and the associated needs, the popularity of voluntourism also grows, expanding world-wide.

Although voluntourism is growing in importance; accessible, organized, high-quality information is lacking and pertinent statistics are rarely captured. As a result, there tends to be an absence of coordination characterized by isolation and fragmentation within the industry as well as a lack of standards and cooperation between players.

The long-term success of voluntourism will largely depend upon how effectively the industry embraces the new and dynamic information environment; one with unprecedented availability of raw data and a growing usage of new information communication technology (ICT). By effectively harnessing the information and technology at hand, cooperation and integration will be enhanced at all levels with resulting operational improvements and increased benefits all around.

What is lacking is not passion but the tools to make it happen.

Looking to the future.

The UN Volunteers programme promotes ICT as a tool for volunteers engaged in development. iVt is a glowing example of such a tool. Along with helping fulfill the mandate set forth in a resolution by the UN General Assembly to "enhance the knowledge base" about volunteer work, iVt will also contribute towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) while both strengthening and ensuring the industry is healthy and sustainable for years to come.

