



Riders for Health

Anyone who has traveled widely in Africa can corroborate this sad truth: There is an abundance of aid—but often the aid is squandered by lack of training and assistance in simple things such as vehicle maintenance or driver training. We see dozens of derelict Land Cruisers and “piki-pikis” (motorcycles) littering the back lots of rural clinics or community organizations—all for want of a simple part or the knowledge to install it.

Motorcycle enthusiasts Barry and Andrea Coleman and Randy Mamola noticed this as well during several trips to raise money for children in developing countries. They subsequently founded Riders for Health, an international non-governmental organization whose mission is to ensure that health work-

ers in Africa have uninterrupted access to reliable transportation. Their approach is not to just donate vehicles or motorcycles, but to put in place reliable preventive maintenance systems for them. Riders for Health works in Gambia, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya, Lesotho, and Mozambique, coordinating their efforts with ministries of health, UN agencies, and local humanitarian organizations. And unlike most NGOs, Riders’ programs are managed by wholly African, wholly professional teams, thereby building real and sustainable development by providing two things that are so rare in the developing world: access to healthcare, and steady employment. Last year Riders also began offering motorcycle tours in Lesotho, visiting projects as well as sampling traditional Africa. riders.org

Eco-Overlanding *Noteworthy efforts around the globe*

POST CARD



Atlantic Rising: In the next 100 years Atlantic sea levels are predicted to rise by up to one meter. If this occurs, thousands of communities will be displaced, unique landscapes will be lost, and the geography of the Atlantic will be changed forever. Atlantic Rising was founded by three Cambridge University friends; their goal is to complete a 32,000-kilometer circumnavigation of the one-meter Atlantic Ocean contour line. Tim Bromfield, Will Lorimer, and Lynn Morris are halfway through their overland journey, which is largely supported by Land Rover and the Royal Geographical Society—the project won the coveted Go Beyond Bursary in 2009, which provided the team with funds and a Land Rover Defender. Along the way they are creating an educational network among 15,000 students in low-lying coastal communities; in March, they launched a “message in a bottle,” literally: a 1.5-meter capsule contain-

ing letters from thousands of the students was dropped into the Atlantic Ocean just south of the equator. Through photography, films, and writing, the Atlantic Rising team is also documenting what will be lost if sea-level predictions come true. atlanticrising.org, www.rgs.org, landrover.com

