

KARNALI RIVER EXPEDITION UPDATE – April 2018

The Karnali River Scientific Expedition is a GO!

We are so excited to announce that we have raised 92% of the funding to support the Karnali Expedition 2018 including the advance kayak reconnaissance team doing a first descent of the Karnali River. Thank you for everything you've done to spread the word in support of this endeavor, we are so proud of how far we've come in the last few months. The expedition will be taking place in fall of 2018 but we are sending four kayakers in advance this month. Read more about our expedition and the kayak team below.

The objective of the Karnali River Expedition is to document the environmental and cultural aspects of the last free-flowing river of Nepal and create a culturally informed, locally supported integrated water resource management framework on the main stem of the Karnali River.

GRANTS



Waterkeeper Alliance is funding two Chinese Waterkeepers to join the team.

Fly Fishers International has awarded us with their very first international conservation grant.

We are proud that we have received funding from Patagonia –World Trout Initiative. This helps fund our expedition in China and India.

We have been selected as a finalist for a USAID Nepal Program for Aquatic Natural Resource Improvement (PANI) grant. The paperwork is in DC for final approval. This grant funds our entire project through Nepal.

SPONSORS

Financial support from **individual donors like you** has made the advance reconnaissance kayak team a reality. A big heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all who have donated. You don't know how much this means to the expedition! The team is scheduled to arrive in Nepal on April 10, 2018.



Turkish Airlines is flying the kayakers from Spain to Kathmandu and back.

Yeti Airlines is flying all 4 kayakers from Nepalgunj to Simikot.

Yeti Brewing is donating beer for a fundraiser.

INITIAL KAYAK RECONNAISSANCE MISSION

Surjan Tamang of Nepal, Aniol Serrasolses and Mikel Sarasola of Spain, and Todd Wells of the USA will fly their kayaks to Simikot and porter/jeep to Hilsa to begin their journey on the Karnali River at the Nepal/China border on April 15, 2018. Their first challenge will be the never-before-run Devils Gorge above Simikot. The kayak crew is the initial reconnaissance team for the Karnali River Scientific Expedition which will take place in September 2018. The kayakers will film the challenges of their descent, the outstanding and remarkable environmental features and document the people and cultures they encounter along the Karnali River Corridor. They will prepare a short film to raise international awareness of the plight of the Karnali and the proposed main stem dam. We will also use it for fund raising. Their documentation of the river course and the surrounding environmental and cultural aspects encountered will be invaluable to help direct the scientific team to specific places on the landscape to visit during the scientific expedition in September.

MEET OUT ADVENTURE KAYAK TEAM

Mikel Sarasol – Engineer-Professional Kayaker-Filmmaker, Spain
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj6C6vnNG9IzRg4A1IutbQg>

Aniol Serrasolses – Professional Kayaker, Filmmaker – Spain
<https://vimeo.com/118007637>



Todd Wells – Kayaker-Adventurer-Filmmaker-Writer, USA
<https://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/best-job-ever/160714-sciex-bje-todd-wells-kayaking-alaska>



Surjan Tamang – Kayak Guide, Nepal
Sorry, I don't have a video link for Surjan

FUNDRAISING NEEDS

We have raised 92% of the funding needed for this expedition. Only \$18,000 to go! If you choose to contribute, donate at www.waterkeeper.org don't forget to write in Karnali River Waterkeeper to designate the funds to.

- **Breaking News** we are inviting ten people join the expedition for the rafting portion (Oct 14-25) and have direct access to the scientists and their intimate knowledge of the area, its environments and its cultures. The cost is \$1500 for 10 fabulous days of rafting. Airfare and Kathmandu hotels not included. If you are interested, contact Karen kabennett01@gmail.com

-SPREAD THE WORD-