



Trails For Change NGO

2019 Annual Report

We believe that trails can increase tourism, create more jobs and make a difference in Armenia. Trails For Change is still the only professional organization in Armenia that plans, designs and builds hiking, running, biking trails to promote tourism in Armenia partnering with various donors and organizations, individuals and experts, state institutions and private sector. As a professional trail builder, the owner of Los Angeles-based Bellfree Contractors company and Trails For Change NGO INC., I decided to make a contribution to my ancestral homeland by building trails and installing the trail building culture in Armenia.



Hans Keifer, Founder of Trails For Change NGO

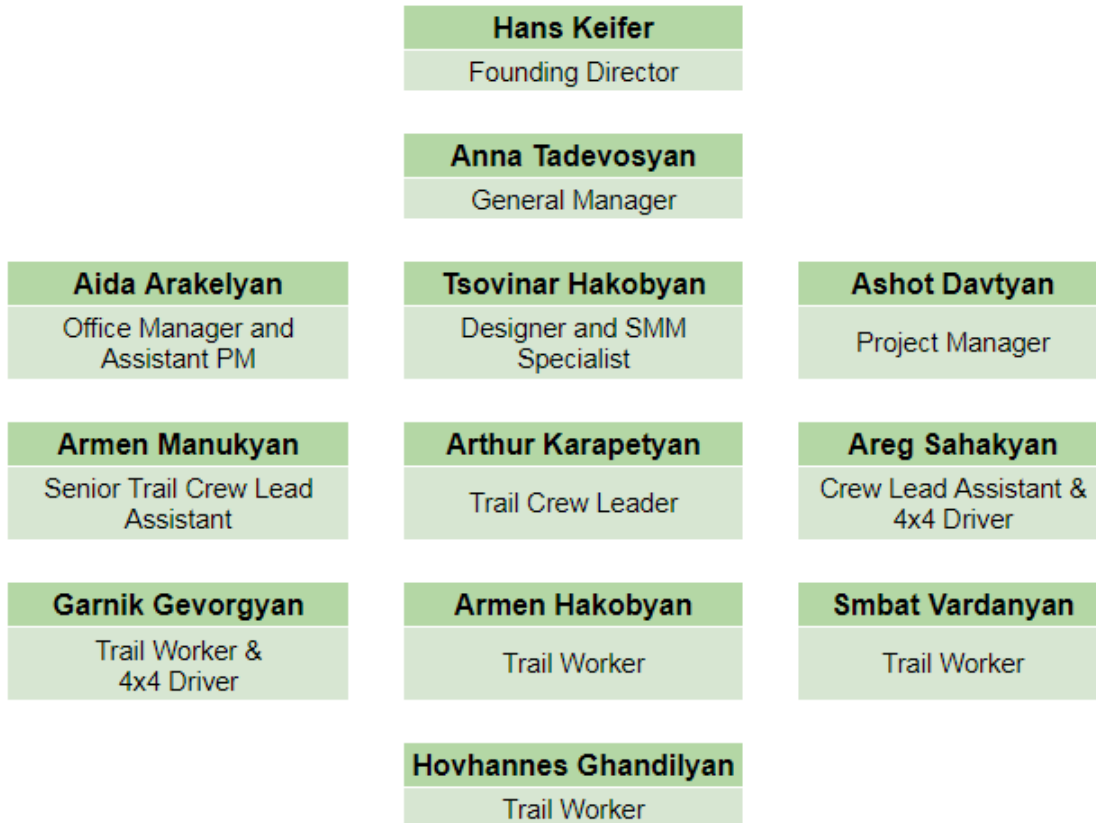
BACKGROUND

Trails for Change NGO (TFC) is a non-profit organization funded by grants and donations with the mission to develop the tourism and outdoor recreational infrastructure throughout Armenia, by designing, building, and maintaining a network of trails throughout the country. The TFC team came together when International expert Hans Keifer, a professional trail builder from California with decades of experience, was brought in to provide training and guidance for the Transcaucasian Trail (TCT) project in 2017. During the trail-building process, Hans saw huge gaps in Armenia's sports and recreation infrastructure and decided that the best way to improve these problems was to start the TFC nongovernmental organization (NGO).

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

The broader goal of TFC's trail building is to develop opportunities for rural communities to see the economic impacts as a result of an increase in tourism and to promote rural tourism ventures. The organization has the objective to diversify tourism opportunities in Armenia, making the rich nature and diverse landscapes more alluring to foreigners and locals, promoting healthy lifestyles and adventure tourism. Through the sustainable trails that TFC constructs, maintains and restores, tourists and locals alike have an easier and more appealing way to explore the regions, wander in the breathtaking mountains, visit historic cultural sights, connect with the locals, and have unforgettable experiences.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



2019 PROJECTS AND RESULTS

Educational and Volunteering Projects

“Barev Trails” project

“Barev Trails” project is implemented by WWF Armenia, Wesser Foundation and Trails For Change NGO. The project is aimed at creation and improvement of ecotourism infrastructure and information materials for tourists and visitors of the Specially Protected Nature Areas in Armenia. It's the 4th project implemented with the help of international and local volunteers. The project took place in Dsegh village with participation of 25 international and 10 local volunteers. Volunteers came from 4 countries: UK, Germany, Switzerland and Spain. Each group of volunteers had its group leader. The aim of the project was developing trail infrastructure in Dsegh village and surrounding area, Lori region to meet internationally recognised standards of safety, sustainability and aesthetics. This project has achieved the expected results in developing trail network infrastructure in Dsegh village and surrounding area.

The complete report is available here: [LINK TO REPORT](#)



Revival of ancient trails in Vorotan Canyon

In 2018 a professional group of trail builders and designers from “Trails for Change” NGO (TFC) started the expedition and scouting in the area of Vorotan canyon, Syunik region in Armenia. During the scouting traces of ancient trails were found that had been used by our ancestors centuries ago to commute and move cattle or products. The result showed that those trails were currently well-preserved taken the period when they were built, but at the same time, they're endangered. Understanding the historical, cultural and economic value and impact that those trails can have for the area of Tatev community, medieval monastery complex of Tatev and its surroundings, TFC team started to develop a project called “Revival of Ancient Trails in Vorotan Canyon” with a goal to construct and re-building trails in the historical Syunik region, connecting Tatev village with surrounding villages of Tandzatap, Khot, Halidzor, Shinuhayr and Bardzravan, passing through the Great Hermitage of Tatev (Mets Anapat) monastic complex, waterfalls, ancient settlements, caves and dazzling landscapes.



The complete report is available here: [LINK TO REPORT](#)

Youth for Change Program in Vorotan Canyon, Syunik Region, Armenia



In July-August, 2019 Trails for Change NGO (TFC) implemented Youth for Change Project in Syunik region within “Revival of Ancient Trails in Vorotan Canyon” Project. Project characteristics

1. Participants: 10 local youngsters from Yerevan and other regions.
2. Trails directions:
Bardzravan village to
Harants Anapat, Tatev Great
Anapat to Suspension Bridge

There was participation of international volunteers in the “Revival of Ancient Trails in Vorotan Canyon” Project as well, that created a multicultural environment and opportunity for cultural and lingual exchange. Skills and knowledge gathered from the project mostly through the “learning by doing” method is a great resource for participants for working, nature and social environments.

The complete report is available here: [LINK TO REPORT](#)

Trail building and maintenance projects

Maintenance of hiking trails in Dilijan National Park and surrounding areas



In the period from 15.05.2019 to 21.05.2019 in the frame of HIKEArmenia and Trails for Change Donation contract maintenance project was implemented. Intended work for this period was: 1,78 km of trail widening, lopping, bush clearing, blazing of Khachardzan-Chermakavan segment, 1,7 km of dirt clearing, lopping, bush clearing, blazing of Chermakavan-Gosh Lake segment, 8,5 km of dirt clearing, lopping, bush clearing, blazing of Parz Lake-Dilijan segment, 2,87 km of dirt clearing, lopping, bush clearing, blazing of Parz lake- Gosh segment, 2 km of dirt clearing, bush clearing, blazing of Jughtakvank-Haghartsin segment.

The complete report is available here: [LINK TO REPORT](#)

Trail building and signposting in Lori Region



In the period from 14.10.2019 to 28.10.2019 in the frame of HIKEArmenia and Trails for Change Donation contract trail development project was implemented.. Intended work for this period was: 8,88 km of signposting, trail, blazing of Tumanyan Qarinj Trail, 3 km of trail building, signposting, lopping, bush clearing, blazing of Dsegh Loop Trail, 6,5 km of signposting, blazing of Karinj Dsegh Trail.

The complete report is available here: [LINK TO REPORT](#)

Construction and signposting of hiking trails in Vayots Dzor region



This project has achieved the expected results in developing trail network infrastructure in Zaritap community area, Vayots Dzor region, including Artavan, Gomk, Kapuyt villages and the surrounding area to meet internationally recognised standards of safety, sustainability and aesthetics. Intended work for was trail building , trail marking: blazing and signpost installation.

The complete report is available here: [LINK TO REPORT](#)

“Innovation for Social Impact”



This project has achieved the expected results in developing trail network infrastructure in Zaritap community area, Vayots Dzor region, connecting Gomk and Martiros villages with newly built trail which meets internationally recognised standards of safety, sustainability and aesthetics. Intended work for this period was trail building, trail marking: blazing and signpost installation.

The complete report is available here: [LINK TO REPORT](#)

THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!