



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | ARCHITECTURE | ECOLOGE DESIGN | ECOTOURISM PLANNING | PHOTOGRAPHY

HITESH MEHTA FASLA FRIBA FAAK Associate AIA **Protected Area Planning Bio - Dec 2021**

Hitesh is a Protected Area Planner, Landscape Architect, Architect, Interior Architect and is a multi-international award-winning planner and designer with Awards in Landscape Architecture, Planning, Architecture, Urban Design, Creative Writing and Interior Design. He is considered by his peers as the world's leading authority, practitioner, and researcher on sustainable tourism/ecotourism physical planning and both the landscape architectural and architectural aspects of Protected Area infrastructure. Hitesh has over 34 years' experience, having worked and consulted in 65 countries on six continents. His main work is to help protect endangered plant / animal species, alleviate poverty in indigenous communities via benefits from ecotourism, and through hands-on workshops, build capacity in local professionals and national park staff on the planning and design of eco-friendly facilities in protected areas.

Hitesh has vast experience in Protected Area Physical Planning and has worked on Sustainable Tourism Plans that protect the last remaining endangered species such as Mountain Gorillas in Rwanda; Tigers in India; Giant Pandas in China; Chimpanzees in Uganda; Galapagos Shark; Bali Starlings, Pygmy Hippopotamus in Ivory Coast; Southern Right Whales and Koala Bears in Australia; Elephants in Tanzania; Javan Leopards in Indonesia; Bonobos in DR Congo; Jaguars in Costa Rica; Western Lowland Gorillas in Gabon; and Black Rhinos, Lions, Hooded Vultures in Kenya. Hitesh's firm **HM Design** is currently working on environmentally and socially friendly projects in Liberia, Nepal, Timor Leste, Mexico, Galapagos, Kenya, and Dominica.

Hitesh is one of the founding members of the Global Ecotourism Network and was the longest serving Board member of The International Ecotourism Society. He is an author of three books, including "Authentic Ecolodges" by world renowned publisher - Harper Collins.

In July 2006, National Geographic Adventure magazine identified Hitesh as one of five Sustainable Tourism Pioneers in the world mainly because of his Master Planning work to protect endangered habitat and alleviate human poverty. He has been featured / interviewed / mentioned in over 195 international magazines, newspapers, books, newsletters, and blogs. Mr. Mehta is also an Adjunct Professor, a Professional Photographer and a Hall of Fame Cricket Player from Kenya.

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