

ROOTED

Quarterly Report for Sustainability

FOURTH QUARTER 2020



EMBRACING THE ENVIRONMENT

CATALYSING POSITIVE CHANGE

Banyan Tree Global Foundation Launches Greater Good Grants

For the first time in its 11-year history, Banyan Tree Global Foundation has launched the Greater Good Grants to support innovative and impactful sustainability projects.

Banyan Tree Group's non-profit arm, [Banyan Tree Global Foundation](#), has launched the Greater Good Grants that supports innovative and impactful projects across 6 areas aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals as well as the Group's core ethos of 'Embracing the Environment, Empowering People'.



A diver monitors a coral reef in the Maldives.

As a socially responsible business, Banyan Tree Group was founded with the core value of driving sustainable development. A global hospitality group operating in diverse locations, its concept of sustainability seeks to create long-term value for multiple stakeholders and destinations. Since earning the 1992 Environmental Award from American Express and The International Hotel Association for the remediation of a former tin mining site into Laguna Phuket – Asia's first destination integrated resort, Banyan Tree Group has championed sustainability stewardship as a top priority. For this commitment, the Group has received nods of approval with social and environmental awards from various organisations.

In October last year, the Group announced that it is opening up its grant-giving foundation to external projects further afield from its immediate operating communities. "Our usual approach has been to award project grants mainly through our operating properties and support the environment and community stakeholders in that specific vicinity. While projects should be in the same countries as where we operate, our new approach is to invite NGOs and academics to apply so we can support more impactful projects benefitting people and the planet," explains Dr Steve Newman, Assistant Vice President, Group Sustainability Director and Coordinating Director of Banyan Tree Global Foundation.

Projects are assessed in their contribution to one or more of the following areas:

- Biodiversity & Conservation: Improve understanding, conservation and management of species and habitats.
- Resource Use & Waste Management: Innovative projects that tackle the cradle-to-grave lifecycle of resources that benefit community, business and the environment.
- Climate Change & Resilience: Elucidate global change and develop resilience in natural and human systems.
- Education & Empowerment: Development of education infrastructure, capacity and delivery to students of any age, with particular focus on disadvantaged members of society.
- Health & Protection: Focus on health and wellbeing in local communities.
- Culture & Livelihood: Development, protection, restoration and stewardship of culture and livelihoods.

Ms Claire Chiang, Co-founder & Senior Vice President of Banyan Tree Holdings and Chairperson of Banyan Tree Global Foundation says: "We have given project grants to over 150 partners in our operating locales since inception to now. This is our ecosystem of greater good, centred on our belief that our business is a vehicle for societal betterment and transformation. In this time where hope and optimism are needed more than ever, we hope to catalyse positive ripple effects and extend our support to more partners seeking to create positive, sustainable change."

The funding call for the Greater Good Grants for 2022 will be announced in June 2021. For more information, visit [Greater Good Grants](#).

EMBRACING THE ENVIRONMENT

PROPERTY HIGHLIGHTS: KEEPING OUR ENVIRONMENT CLEAN AND GREEN



Laguna Lăng Cồ

With Banyan Tree Global Foundation funding, associates planted 12,750 broad-leaved paperbark trees (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*), which can be harvested for oil. In addition to increasing local coverage of trees, this will provide beneficiary Nuoc Ngot Social Protection Center with income to continue supporting children in need.



Laguna Bintan

Laguna Bintan supported a national webinar on ecotourism, organised by Tropenbos Indonesia, one of country's biggest conservation NGOs. The webinar was attended by over 200 participants from 24 provinces in Indonesia via Zoom and YouTube, with Laguna Bintan serving as a moderator.



Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru

In recognition of its sustainability commitment and achievements, Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru won the Best CSR Programme Award at the South Asian Travel Awards 2020.



Angsana Teluk Bahang

With the support of the Centre for Marine and Coastal Studies of the University Science Malaysia, the resort organised a meeting with the local community of Teluk Bahang to discuss alternative ways to live sustainably amidst COVID-19.

EMPOWERING PEOPLE

PROPERTY HIGHLIGHTS: CREATING VALUE FOR OUR COMMUNITIES



Laguna Phuket

Laguna Phuket's centralised associate canteen recently donated close to 900kg of good quality surplus food to SOS Thailand, amounting to over 3,700 servings of food for those in need. By preventing food wastage, this also helped the resort to reduce 1,678kg of GHG equivalent emissions (Co₂-e (kg)).



Banyan Tree Tengchong

In preparation for a cold winter, associates recently visited Zhuba Primary School, providing students with winter socks, desserts and fruits. The hotel also sent schoolbags, cotton-padded clothes and sports shoes to a select group of students as an encouragement to study hard and pursue their dreams.



Banyan Tree Yangshuo

During the Winter Solstice Festival in December 2020, associates visited the elderly residents of a nearby nursing home. The associates made dumplings, distributed fruits and milk, and chatted with the residents. This activity embodies the Group's purpose of caring for the community, and is the team's way of carrying forward the Chinese traditional virtue of respecting and caring for the elderly.



Maison Souvannaphoum Hotel by Angsana

Maison Souvannaphoum Hotel by Angsana was named a winner under ASEAN Business Awards 2020's Skills Development category, in recognition of the resort's contributions to human capital development.

GROUP HIGHLIGHTS



Greater Accountability and Engagement

New policies and procedures have been written to establish clear guidance for Banyan Tree Group. In 2021, the Group looks to further develop its internal audit and sustainability KPIs to create greater accountability and engagement across the Group.



Knowledge and Capacity Building

In Q4 2020, the Group held a sustainability workshop to develop the knowledge and capacity of all sustainability champions. Four sessions were held, focusing on the SDGs, addressing and identifying shared sustainability values, measuring footprint, and taking action. A process and purpose learning approach was taken to develop shared thinking and ideals.



COVID-19 and Sustainability

In a recent News Cabal feature, Banyan Tree Group's Assistant Vice President and Group Sustainability Director Dr Steve Newman shared insights on the impact of COVID-19 on how companies view sustainability. He added that businesses should take the opportunity to review their sustainability ambitions, and identify far-reaching opportunities to achieve impact beyond their own operations. (<https://www.newscabal.co.uk/how-a-pandemic-changed-the-chief-sustainability-officer/>)



New Ideas for Sustainability

As the world continues to tackle the current global pandemic, Banyan Tree Group is taking this opportunity to discover new ideas in the journey towards its sustainability goals. This is done through The X-Change, an internal online platform inviting all associates to contribute ideas and best practices for others to adopt or learn from.