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PRESS RELEASE

Banyan Tree Global Foundation Announces Inaugural Greater Good Grants' Awardees



Embracing the Environment:

Biodiversity & Conservation

Resource Use & Waste Management

Climate Change & Resilience

Education & Empowerment

Empowering People:

Health & Protection

Culture & Livelihood

Singapore, 30 April 2021 – As a global industry leader, Banyan Tree Group is a socially responsible business that drives sustainable development and stewardship. Amidst COVID-19, our sustainability arm – Banyan Tree Global Foundation (BTGF) – has stepped up to uncover opportunities to extend help. Stemming from a belief that all businesses have a duty to do their part for society, the Greater Good Grants (GGG) launched last year will be awarded to support eight external organisations with projects that will benefit local communities and natural environments in countries where the Group's hotels and resorts operate.

This answers to a crucial need, as the pandemic has resulted in more countries tapping on their natural resources in order to ease economic damage, while funding has been pulled from various conservation initiatives and cultural heritage projects. In fact, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recently reported at least 22 countries have rolled back protection of natural areas, some of which contain the world's most valuable ecosystems.

"We have a track record of providing grants to over 150 partner organisations in the past. In our pursuit of creating an ecosystem of greater good, we have created the Greater Good Grants to offer even more support. Building partnerships has always been important to us as a Group, as we believe it is the key to making a greater impact," says Dr Steve Newman, Assistant Vice President, Group Sustainability Director and Coordinating Director of BTGF.

This inaugural round saw eight NGOs selected based on their projects that fall under one of the six focal areas, which aligns with the UN Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs) and the Group's core ethos of "Embracing the Environment, Empowering People". The SDGs include *Biodiversity & Conservation, Resource Use & Waste Management, Climate Change & Resilience, Education & Empowerment, Health & Protection and Culture & Livelihood*.

Currently, a majority of the submissions focuses on our environment. The selected projects will benefit Borneo's rainforests, Gunung Leuser National Park and Mahakam Delta in Indonesia, Bach Ma National Park and Thua Thien Hue province in Vietnam and Anlung Pring Wetlands in Cambodia. The other two successful submissions fall under Health & Protection – a water sanitation project in Bumi Indah village, Indonesia, as well as women empowerment workshops in Phuket, Thailand. Details of individual projects are listed in the *Appendix*, and updates will be released later this year.

To ensure effectiveness in the long run, each project is based on its demonstrated need and urgency; leverage of local, regional and national partnerships to deliver measurable impact; and scalability with clear evaluations of success.



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ANGSANA



CASSIA



DHAWA

LaGuna

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Ms Claire Chiang, Co-founder & Senior Vice President of Banyan Tree Holdings and Chairperson of Banyan Tree Global Foundation says: “2020 provided some respite from the long-term threat of global warming, but it also highlighted the need to repair our planet, and develop a more substantial, science-based roadmap towards a sustainable future. We may be in the business of hospitality, but we are intrinsically dependent on the intangibles of nature, culture and heritage. The stewardship of biodiversity, culture and livelihood is our duty.”

The Greater Good Grants are open to all individuals over the age of 18 who have an organisational affiliation, for up to US\$10,000. Year 2022 funding may comprise different categories, as specific underserved SDGs may be highlighted. **The next round of submissions will officially open in June 2021.** For updates, please visit the [Greater Good Grants](#).

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For high-resolution images, please download [here](#).

ABOUT BANYAN TREE GROUP

Banyan Tree Holdings Limited (“Banyan Tree” or the “Group”) is one of the world’s leading independent, multi-branded hospitality groups. The Group’s diversified portfolio of hotels, resorts, spas, galleries, golf and residences is centered on five award-winning brands (Banyan Tree, Angsana, Cassia, Dhawa and Laguna) that offer exceptional design-led experiences for global travellers of today and tomorrow.

Founded in 1994 on the core concept of sustainability, Banyan Tree Holdings seeks to create long-term value for all stakeholders and destinations across its network of properties, products and brands, through a purpose-driven mission. With 8,000 associates across 22 countries, Banyan Tree Management Academy (BTMA) was established in 2008 to support the Group’s goals through advancing people development, management excellence, and learning with integrity and meaning.

Banyan Tree Holdings has received 2,759 industry awards and accolades since inception. It has also received recognition for its commitment to environmental protection and community development through its Banyan Tree Global Foundation (BTGF), which aligns the Group’s efforts to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Executing on its regionalised growth strategy, the Group’s global footprint continues to grow with 35 new hotels and resorts under design and construction in the pipeline, in addition to 48 operating hotels in 13 countries as of 31 December 2020.

Banyan Tree Holdings entered a strategic long-term partnership with Accor in 2016 to develop and manage Banyan Tree branded hotels around the world along with the access to Accor’s global reservations and sales network, as well as the loyalty programme ALL - Accor Live Limitless. It also formed a joint venture with China Vanke Co. Ltd. in 2017 – focusing on active ageing and wellness hospitality projects.

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APPENDIX

Six Focal Areas

Our Environment

- Biodiversity & Conservation: Improve understanding, conservation and management of species and habitats.
- Resource Use & Waste Management: Innovative ways to tackle cradle-to-grave lifecycles of resources to benefit community, business and the environment.
- Climate change & Resilience: Elucidate global change and develop resilience in natural and human systems.

Our Community

- Education & Empowerment: Develop 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.

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- Culture & Livelihood: Develop, protect, restore and provide stewardship of culture and livelihoods.

2021 Greater Good Grants – Eight Awarded Projects

Project	Category	Details
Community Conservation	Biodiversity & Conservation	Location: Borneo Rainforest, Indonesia Borneo's forests are major global carbon stores, home to the largest remaining critically endangered orangutan populations, and also provide economic and social benefits for indigenous communities. However, they are being destroyed by annual fires after decades of poor land management. We support Borneo Nature Foundation (BNF) to implement grassroots solutions to tackle the impacts and causes of fire, create long-term fire-prevention strategies, and introduce an active reforestation programme in Sebangau. Its community nursery project provides resources and training for rural communities to grow young seedlings of native trees, and BNF buys them back when large enough to plant. By 2025, the aim is to plant 1 million trees to help restore the habitat.
Conservation of Muntjac	Biodiversity & Conservation	Location: Bach Ma National Park, Vietnam The tropical forests of Vietnam harbour exceptional biodiversity but are under immense pressure from habitat loss and unsustainable hunting. Bach Ma National Park is believed to be one of the last strongholds for two threatened species – the large-antlered muntjac and Annamite dark muntjac. We aim to collect reliable data about their population status and distribution in order to develop science-driven conservation strategies.
Conservation of Tortoises and Turtles	Biodiversity & Conservation	Location: Thua Thien Hue province, Vietnam The Bach Ma National Park and Sao La Nature Reserve are home to tortoises and freshwater turtles including the highly- threatened Mauremys pond turtles. We will raise local and regional awareness of these species to build a solid foundation for future conservation work, and engage in broader activities involving the critically endangered Bourret's Box Turtle and release of rehabilitated animals back into the wild as part of the efforts to reduce threats from the illegal wildlife trade.
Wildlife Conservation through Permaculture	Biodiversity & Conservation	Location: Gunung Leuser National Park, Indonesia The Gunung Leuser National Park is a regular victim of illegal logging and hunting of wild animals. This project seeks to prevent that while also building an alternative economy for the community in the long run. We seek to create a forest buffer area, and limit the land use for subsistence agriculture and forest product use. This will in turn prevent the forest from becoming increasingly void of wildlife, and reduce hunting of protected wildlife species such as the Sumatran slow loris.
Tackling Agricultural Waste to Conserve Waterbirds	Resource Use & Waste Management	Location: Anlung Pring Wetlands, Cambodia Anlung Pring Protected Area is among the most important wetlands in Cambodia, containing majority of the Indochinese population of the globally threatened Sarus cranes. These large waterbirds often venture beyond the protected area to feed, and risk ingesting agricultural chemicals due to poor waste disposal practices. We aim to implement better hazardous agriculture waste management measures and infrastructure, and engage local communities to better understand waste disposal approaches.
Mangrove Restoration	Climate change & Resilience	Location: Mahakam Delta, Indonesia Mahakam Delta in Borneo island is a vast mangrove ecosystem contributing to global carbon sequestration, and home to the critically endangered proboscis monkey. Today, 47.8% of the mangrove ecosystem has been degraded due to aquaculture. This has led to the reduced stock of marine products, increased development of diseases and vulnerability of local communities to extreme climatic events. The project aims to restore and protect the mangrove ecosystem and develop sustainable alternative livelihoods for local communities.



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Improving Water Access	Health & Protection	<p>Location: Bintan, Indonesia</p> <p>The Safe Water Garden and Running Water project by LooLa Adventure Resort is an existing sanitation project that improves hygiene and quality of life in the rural village of Bumi Indah. By installing pumps, water tanks and sinks to 37 households, we provide running water to kitchens for washing of hands, encourage gardening activities and reduce an existing inequality between city and village populations. All installations use simple and reliable construction methods, with widely available materials so the villagers can maintain the water systems on their own.</p>
Empowering Women Workshop	Health & Protection	<p>Location: Phuket, Thailand</p> <p>To support and empower women to realise their full potential and regain self-worth, the Pink Lotus Foundation in Thailand organised Empowering Women Workshops. The workshop targets professional women in leadership roles and working in the non-profit sector, and equip them with tools such as communication strategies, personal and professional goal-setting techniques, and mentoring capabilities. It aims to better serve their communities, and impact the people they coach towards a brighter future.</p>