



BETTER PLACES FOR PEOPLE TO
LIVE IN & FOR TRAVELERS TO VISIT

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

EXO

FOUNDATION

 www.exofoundation.com

 Facebook @EXOFoundation

 contact@exofoundation.org

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

This year, EXO Foundation has actively supported new projects especially in destinations such as Vietnam, Laos & Thailand, Our team has identified very promising initiative and mapped online all projects locations via our website.

In 2017, we have been also active on social media with around 1,760 Facebook followers @EXOFoundation. It enables us to relay updates on our supported projects and on sustainability related information.

We have dedicated a lot of energy to spread the word on plastic waste pollution and helped EXO Travel to implement "plastic free" trips for their travelers. More than 2,300 refillable bottles have been distributed to travelers, which helped to avoid the use of 44,755 single-use plastic bottles!

This movement will be extended in 2018 in collaboration with other DMCs and tourism operators.

This year again, EXO Foundation has connected travelers, travel agents and companies willing to support development's projects in our region, to our network of trustworthy non-profit organizations. This role most needed in countries where it is difficult for civil society organizations to get exposure for their initiatives. In other words, we have highlighted to discerning donors from overseas where are and how to meet the real development challenges faced within our region.

VISION & MISSION

Put simply EXO Foundation's vision is to use tourism to make destinations better places for people to live in, and for travelers to visit!

We aim to be a driving force in actively fostering sustainable development and improving positive societal and environmental changes through the promotion of responsible tourism.

Our ambition is to pave the way for mainstreaming good practices within the travel industry in Asia (especially in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar/Burma, Thailand and Vietnam).

We work towards maximizing the potential for tourism to become a tool for poverty alleviation and sustainable development. While, we strive to minimize the negative social, cultural and environmental impacts tourism may generate.

ACTIVITIES

We support and set up sustainable projects promoting responsible tourism in South East Asia. The projects we support address various socio, cultural, environmental and economic issues. We have an online project proposal form, to be sent back completed to: info@exofoundation.org
Find out more information on our website: www.exofoundation.org



Overview

35

PROJECTS SUPPORTED IN 2017

We have increased the number of project supported by 84% compared to last year and the average amount of donation was raised from \$2,932 to \$4,293.

\$112K

DONATIONS TO PROJECTS

We have leveraged \$112.465 for donations to selected projects (including other donors contributions - accounting for 13% of the global donations budget).

Causes supported

*by percentage of financial donations



29%

Children protection



25%

Training & education



14%

Wildlife & Biodiversity



14%

Health & Sanitation



6%

Culture & Arts



5%

Responsible Tourism

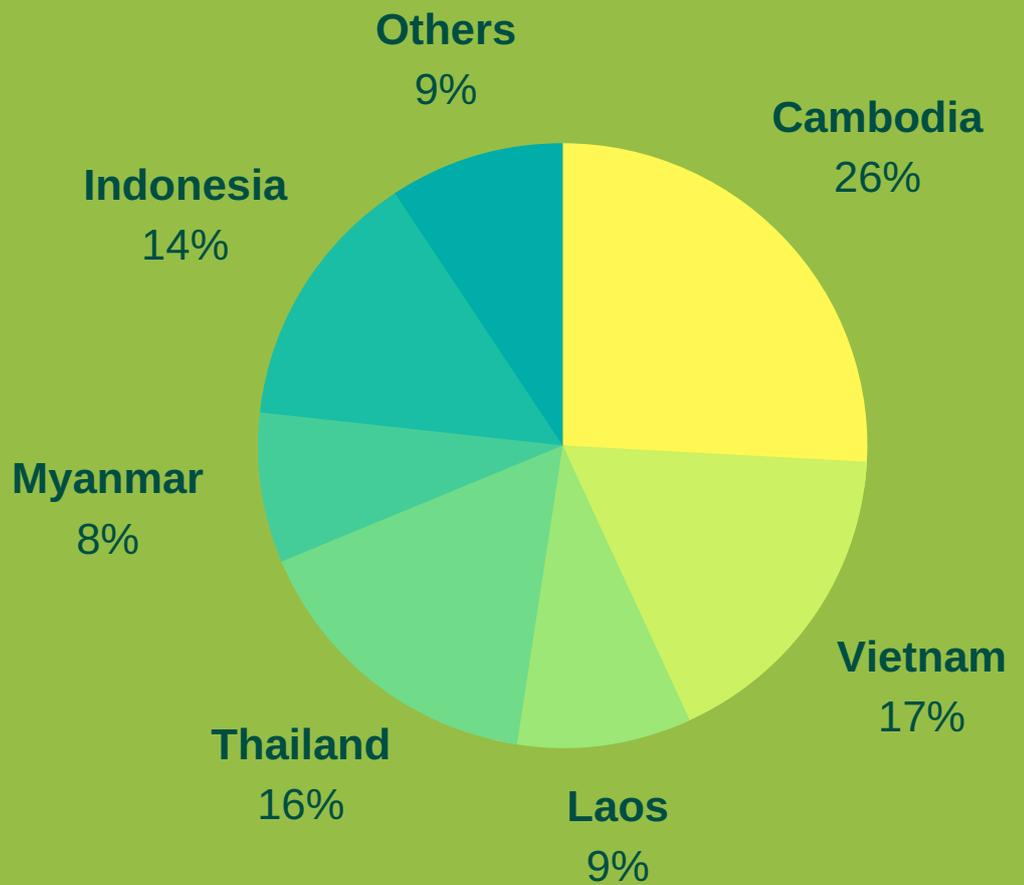


8%

Emergency relief

Nepal & Indonesia

Areas of intervention



Our main source of funding remains donations from EXO Travel. Each EXO country offices donate \$1 per traveler from their profits to EXO Foundation.

Moreover, EXO Group bears all operational costs of EXO Foundation activities, for office, employees and communication materials (website, brochures, etc.).

We also receive additional funding from travelers, other foundations or organizations abroad which are not included in the figures above.

CHILDREN PROTECTION



HUMAN RIGHTS

Over the past years, one of our main focus has been children protection. We deeply concerned on how tourism might affect children's development, especially in poorest communities; with exposure to sexual exploitation, dropping out of schools, trafficking etc. In 2017, we have funded **\$31.500** towards this cause.

FOCUS PROJECTS

APLE - CAMBODIA // Fights against sexual exploitation & trafficking. A team of investigators works hand-in-hands with authorities to arrest & convict pedophiles.



62 victims rescued

SHANTY TOWN - CAMBODIA // Alleviates poverty in a slum area of Phnom Penh. This organization addresses the basic needs of most disadvantaged women, children & families (eg: support to access food, hygiene, school etc).



11 families helped

BUCKHUNGER - CAMBODIA // Fights against hunger by providing 1 meal per day (cooked with fresh ingredients) to children & eldest in need, a simple yet efficient mission! Donations in partnership with Herrod Foundation.



+10.000 meals served

ICS - CAMBODIA // Provides better parenting skills to the most disadvantaged families. In order to prevent violence against children and to promote age appropriate parenting.



9 training modules for parents

CHILDREN OF MADAIFU - CHINA // Orphanage without walls, supports families to keep children within local communities and out of institutionalized orphanages.



121 children cared for

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP



Tourism activities involving children are on the rise, although not as severe a problem as sexual exploitation and abuse of children, but a growing concern. Demand for orphanage and/or school visits or voluntourism or travelers interaction with children is growing...

Although required with good intentions, school visits or volunteering in children centers or teaching English for a few hours, are denounced by child protection organizations as detrimental to the emotional and proper educational development of children. EXO Foundation together with Friends International strive to raise awareness on this topic to tourism operators, travelers and even to local organizations unaware of the negative impacts caused by such repetitive & short term visits.

EXO Foundation is deeply committed to protecting children and is dedicating energy & resources to fight against child exploitation in all its forms together with EXO Travel & reliable specialists organizations.

CHILDSAFE NETWORK

A partnership has been formed between EXO Foundation, EXO Travel & ChildSafe Network, in order to develop specific programs such as:

- distribution of "Tips" for travelers to protect children
- training for Tour guides on ChildSafe 7 tips
- sensitization of clients on ChildSafe tips
- raising awareness of hotels, tour companies & travel agencies on children protection.



EDUCATION TRAINING



CHANGING LIVES

EXO Foundation believes that giving opportunities to young adults, women, physically challenged or less fortunate ones to learn a skill, a competency or a know-how is making a difference in people's life. We aim to invest our funds towards education, especially in the field of hospitality and tourism, in order to give better chances to local people to improve their current living conditions. In 2017, we have invested **\$26,800** in projects on this topic.

FOCUS

HCTC MAE SOT - THAILAND // Provides training to motivated, young Thai Karen and helps them to secure hospitality jobs in luxury properties.



63 students enrolled

BAKERY & PASTRY HOUSE - MYANMAR // Trains disadvantaged young Burmese girls and boys during 16 to 20 months, to pastry & bakery skills.



1 new school

STREET VENDORS TRAINING - VIETNAM // Helps street vendors to structure their businesses and generate better incomes for their families.



283 vendors trained

LONE BUFFALO - LAOS // Teaches English in a deprived area combined with other social activities.



35 learners

HY VONG SCHOOL - VIETNAM // Organizes classes for impaired children in Ho Chi Minh City.

WILDLIFE & BIODIVERSITY



CONSERVE & PROTECT

The rapid growth of Asian economy and land occupation are seriously endangering its natural habitat and wildlife. Tourism development is accountable for environmental damages, by offering activities threatening the beauty of Asian flora & fauna. The extensive use of natural resources especially in fragile ecosystems such as islands, national parks etc, in also causing a serious threat for the future. In 2017, EXO Foundation has donated **\$14,800** on this topic.

FOCUS

ENDANGERED ASIAN SPECIES TRUST - VIETNAM //

Based within Cat Tien National Park this organization supports the rehabilitation of endangered primates.



5 gibbons rescued

WILDLIFE FRIENDS FOUNDATION - THAILAND //

The Thai Elephant Refuge cares for rescued elephants from the tourism industry and street begging.



1,000 elephants protected

PHA TAD KE GARDEN - LAOS // Educates children & local community on endemic flora and conducts researches. Since 2017, the garden is open to tourists.



10 ha of gardens

BALI WATER PROJECT (IDEP) - INDONESIA // Fights against water crisis & shortage through the identification of ground water resources and locations for building recharge water wells.



Mapping in progress

HEALTH & SANITATION



CARE FOR ALL

Healthcare and sanitation remain a major area of concern in South-East Asia, with a lack of infrastructures, supplies and qualified practitioners in remote areas. Households needs for basic sanitation equipment is pre-dominant in the region. Access to healthcare system for all and especially for physically challenged people is growing concern. In 2017, we have allocated \$14,750 to projects tackling these issues.

FOCUS

VA VA CU CHI - VIETNAM // Helps people affected by Agent orange to access better healthcare and physiotherapy treatment towards social inclusion.

VIENTIANE RESCUE TEAM - LAOS // A team of dedicated volunteers offers a free transport service for injured to the nearest medical facility.

EAST BALI POVERTY - INDONESIA // Supports 16 villages within a remote area of Bali's island. Working hands-in-hands with local communities.

TRAILBLAZER FOUNDATION - CAMBODIA // Its health program primarily focuses on providing clean water and on the construction of latrines.

AH LETT CHAUNG CLINIC - MYANMAR // Provides basic care & medicines to the ones that need it.



1 physiotherapy room equipped



Free ambulance service 24/7



23 toilets built



117 wells drilled



553 patients

CULTURE & ARTS



CONSERVE & PROTECT

Cultural preservation and promotion are key to the development of a country as well as an unvaluable asset for its tourism industry. The protection of living or built heritage is vital to a country's attractiveness. Arts can also enable better social inclusion of the most vulnerable ones and allow different form of expressions of a country contemporary culture. In 2017, we have contributed with **\$7.000** to projects relating to culture and arts.

FOCUS

EPIC ARTS - CAMBODIA // This social enterprise helps students not only to learn the arts but to be part of a supportive community that believes they can achieve, whatever their ability.

GIFT OF HAPPINESS - THAILAND // Encourages positive personal development through educational comedy show productions provided by world class professionals and trainee entertainers.



RESPONSIBLE TOURISM



PROMOTE

EXO Foundation main mission is to promote responsible tourism that incorporates long-term strategies to maximize the benefits for local communities and the preservation of their cultural & natural heritage. In 2017, EXO Foundation has contributed with **\$5.075** to such projects (without accounting for costs covered by EXO Travel group for activities supported by EXO Foundation).

FOCUS

TIPS FOR RESPONSIBLE TRAVELERS // This booklet giving tips for trips to traveler, is mainly distributed by EXO Travel teams.+ 15.000 have been printed in 2017

WORLD MEKONG TOURISM FORUM // Ms Anna Pollock, founder of Conscious.travel, has been supported by EXO Foundation to participate as a Key note speaker to the forum gathering 400 tourism operators.

LA VIE VU LINH - VIETNAM // A community based tourism project supporting local communities, environmental initiatives and culture revival.

MYANMAR RESPONSIBLE TOURISM INSTITUTE // Organized a workshop tackling the development of Community Based Tourism initiatives.



EXO TRAVEL & SUSTAINABILITY

EXO Foundation supported EXO Travel in numerous ways over the year, especially by helping Vietnam & Cambodia offices to be Travelife re-certified for Excellence in Sustainability.

A new assessment method enabling to evaluate the level of sustainability of its suppliers has been implemented and tested.

A workshop gathering Sustainability coordinators based in the different EXO destinations has been organized in November 2017, allowing them to share experience. We have managed to standardize criteria among EXO countries, in order to set up specific targets and to compare data (on resources consumption, sustainable purchasing, training, suppliers involvement etc.).

Each EXO country will release a detailed annual report on sustainability for 2017 and an Action Plan for 2018.

ACTION PLAN 2018

One of the biggest implementation will be the extension of carbon offsetting for domestic & regional flights booked by EXO Travel, through a signed partnership with NEXUS for DEVELOPMENT.

As well as the involvement of EXO in various dynamics of social cooperation with other DMCs and partners.



GET INVOLVED WITH US!

WWW.EXOFOUNDATION.ORG

INFO@EXOFOUNDATION.ORG

FACEBOOK [@EXOFOUNDATION](https://www.facebook.com/EXOFOUNDATION)

THANK YOU