



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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2018

WILDLIFE & BIODIVERSITY

In 2018, we have celebrated "Wildlife & Biodiversity" in all its forms, through the support of numerous actions and with the active participation of EXO Travel employees whom have been involved in tree planting, beaches clean up, sponsoring endangered animals & natural lands etc.

At the same time, we have established new forms of collaboration with innovative social enterprises with sustainable business models tackling waste management, promotion of responsible tourism and education for all.

We have extended our communication out reach with our Facebook page which now counts more than 2,000 followers and added new sections on our website. We have also re-designed our "Tips for responsible travelers" booklet with new illustrations, icons and edited content.

With the objective to grow our resources and network, we have created a branch of EXO Foundation in Europe (France)! We will use it to better leverage funds from other companies that will benefit projects in Asia. In the below pages, you will find more details on the projects that we have carefully selected and directly funded.



In memory of our very dear team member, Ms Nguyen Thi Cam Tien who passed away in October from a rare disease. Our thoughts go to her family, we will always remember her in our hearts and her precious contribution to our work.



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

OVERVIEW

EXO Foundation budget is composed of 80% of donations from EXO Travel offices (1\$ per traveler from their profit) and 20% from external sources either EXO client's or other foundation looking at supporting projects in Asia.

Out of 55 projects officially submitted, we have agreed to support 32 projects in 8 different countries.

However, our external donors have dedicated their funds to 2 additional projects working towards poverty reduction in Cambodia & in Vietnam.

The average donation from EXO Foundation is a little below \$4,000 per project, The most significant ones have been supported up to \$20,000 because they tackled several destinations.

135k

DONATED TO
PROJECTS

34

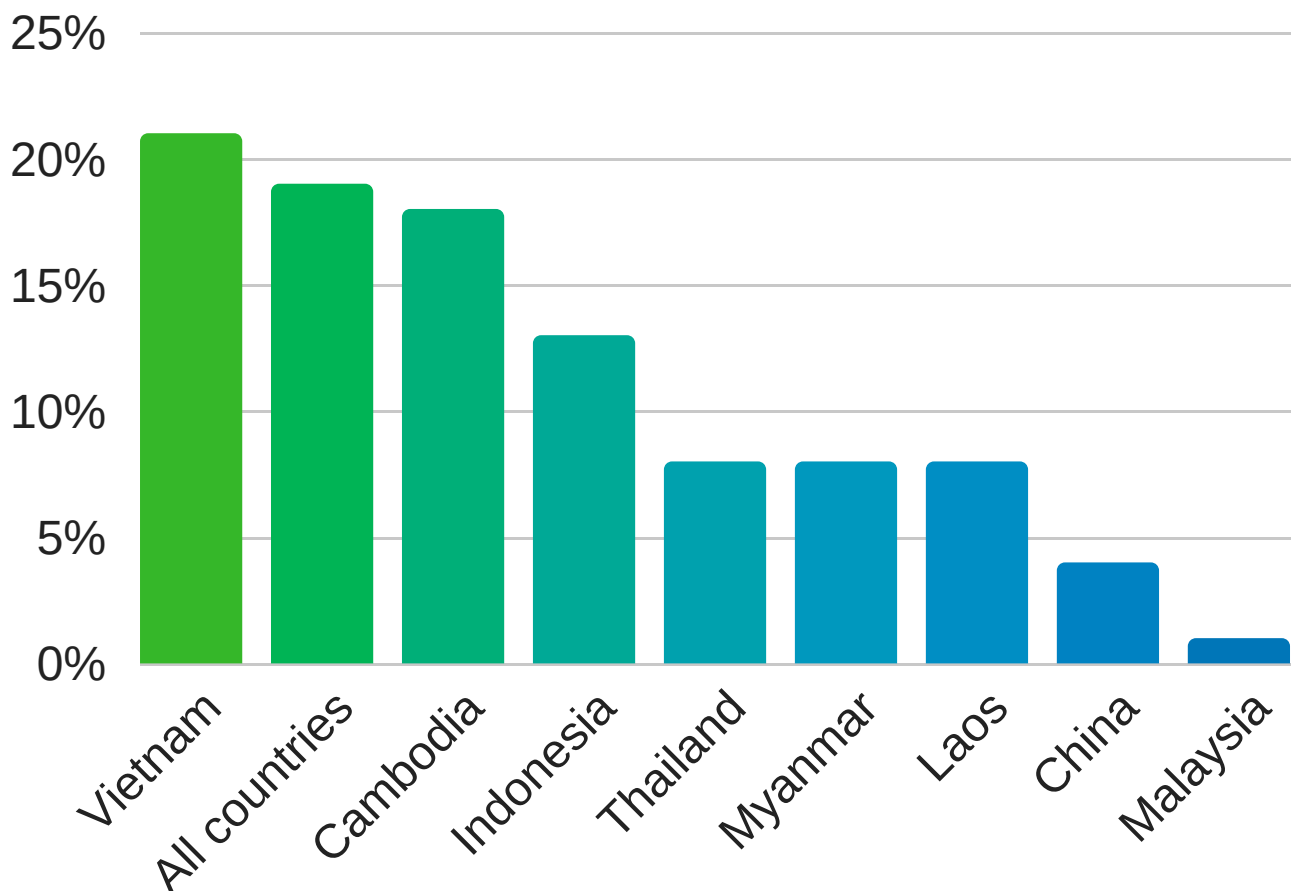
PROJECTS
SUPPORTED

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

This year, we have decided to create global partnerships benefiting several countries at a time, we have implemented this new strategy with organizations such as IECD - Hospitality training and RefillMyBottle (listed under "All Countries" in the graph).

We have also encouraged activities that we could replicate in other destinations, such as Reform centers (cf below) giving a second life to plastic waste and working hands-in-hands with numerous stakeholders. We strongly believe that this kind of projects have a greater impact in the long run.

Since 2018, we have set up 2 funding commissions in March and October, allowing us to study thoroughly all submitted projects. During these commissions, each EXO Foundation representative in the destinations we work in have given further details about the projects and people involved. For each project, we have proceeded to a vote, in order to decide on the support from EXO Foundation.



OUR PROJECTS

In 2018, our objective was to make funding choices that were in line with our vision and to support projects minimizing the negative impacts of tourism (eg: environmental protection, climate change, child exploitation), and maximizing the positive ones (eg: access to quality education, health infrastructures, promotion of arts & culture).

We have also slightly increased our contribution to Community based tourism initiatives, which are clearly linked to the vision of EXO Foundation. Most projects supported this year have a strong link to responsible tourism and are sustainable in the way they operate, which are now two main criteria in our projects selection process.

In 2019, we will encourage external donors to support the projects that we have already identified and/or directly funded. We will also strive to better promote these existing & meaningful initiatives to a greater audience.



35% Climate change
& conservation



11% Children
protection



30% Education &
training



8% Community
Based Tourism



12% Emergency &
Health



3% Arts & culture



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Through the different projects we fund and assist, we contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In each section of this report, we have highlighted the goals that are addressed by each project.

Overall, we contribute directly or indirectly to 13 SDGs, with 5 dedicated to the protection of the environment and 8 responding to social challenges.



In the frame of our partnership with EXO Travel and our role of sustainability advisor, we work towards 6 main SDGs and encourage EXO's whole supply chain and competitors to get involved in these initiatives towards sustainability.



CLIMATE CHANGE & CONSERVATION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



This year, we responded to the efforts of Bookgreener & Refill My Bottle Bali to develop a global mobile app (available on Google Play & Apple Store) enabling travelers to **locate free water stations**. We have supported them financially and with the promotion of this movement towards travelers & local suppliers.



We support GAEA in Cambodia for their "**Glass to sand**" initiative. Set up in partnership with the local tourism industry, GAEA collects glass bottles and pulverizes them to create sand for building & construction, which prevents sand to be collected from its natural environment.



In Vietnam, Evergreenlabs is creating Reform centers **giving a second life to plastic** waste and better living conditions to waste pickers. Transport companies, hotels and other parties involved give them PET waste which is shredded, melted and transformed into usual objects (bowls, containers...)

A group of brilliant architects is tackling the issue of climate change through finding practical solutions to build climate resilient housing. We have supported the **building of 40 houses in Central Vietnam**, heavily affected by yearly typhoons & floods.



Fighting against climate change involves changing habits and educating, that is why we have partnered with ASSET H&C network focusing on hospitality schools & vocational training centers to publish an **eco-guide for hospitality Schools & Professionals**. This pedagogical guide lists technical steps to become an eco-friendly tourism business from energy efficient to food waste reduction, it highlights best practices flourishing within the industry in Asia.

21 scholarships for Climate Change champions will be given to deserving students studying in South East Asia, in partnership with the prestigious SunX network created in legacy to Maurice Strong.



660 plants of different species including more than 200 trees were planted in the EXO Travel Community forest in Dong Nai (Vietnam) and in Bali thanks to our participation to the Bali Reforestation Festival. In Dong Nai, the community forest is located in a Biosphere and we have a long term partnership with Gaia surveying the area for at least 4 years.



This year, EXO Travel teams have organized several clean up activities in Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, China etc. They have either led these initiatives by themselves or partnered with local organizations such as Trash Heroes, Vietnam Clean & Green, Bali Countryside, DPD HPI Bali.



In 2018, EXO Malaysia team with Friends of Sea Turtles Education & Research (FOSTER) has **adopted an 100 meter area** of land on Libaran island where turtles lay their eggs.

A new partnership with Kalaweit organization based in Borneo & Sumatra has allowed us to help them purchase **3 hectares of land** to create a wider wildlife reserve in Supayang adjacent to an existing conservation center. This reserve will host endangered species such as gibbons.



We have decided to renew our partnership with Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand. Last year, we had already helped them to purchase land in order to **facilitate the rescue of 7 elephants**. In 2018, we pursue this effort allowing them to go towards the creation of one of the biggest elephant enclosure in the region at the WFFT Elephant Refugee Center.

EDUCATION



We fostered the socio-professional integration of **2,400 vulnerable youth** through the financial support of vocational training centers in Hospitality and Catering, in partnership with IECD. This year, we have targeted 3 projects:

- Hospitality and Catering Training Centre in Mae Sot, Thailand targeting young Karens.
- French Bakery School in Yangon, Myanmar, newly opened
- Ecospitality Initiative of ASSET-H&C network of Hospitality Schools.

We have supported the initiative led by Vietnamese Youth for Sustainable Tourism (VYST) with the University of Hanoi and the British Council, aiming to organize activities for students such as a **seminar and several workshops focusing on responsible tourism**. This group of students forming the VYST organization involved an intern at EXO Travel Hanoi office and EXO Travel has participated to the event as guest speaker.





ChuChu is a Yangon based social enterprise designing waste material into crafts. Tourists can visit their workshop in Dala township and buy their crafts. ChuChu provides training in schools and non profit organizations, teaching them techniques to re-use waste and supporting the setup of handicraft groups. We have helped them to **purchase new equipment.**

For the past 8 years, together with Children of Mekong we have supported **10 disadvantaged youth and their families in their studies** in Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. The youngest have now all finished primary school and the oldest are studying at university.



In July 2011, we participated to the opening of Maung Shwe Lay Library in a village south of Ngapali beach. The library is still operating and giving free access to text books, newspaper etc. to local people. EXO Foundation pays the **salaries of the two librarians** and the operation cost of the library.

We are supporters of Lone Buffalo based in Phonsavan in Laos, this organization creates a unique environment in which boys and girls from different ethnic backgrounds can study, develop, build confidence and play sports together. We are very proud to **sponsor 2 English classes.**



CHILDREN PROTECTION



We support ICS in Cambodia for leading a project preventing unnecessary Child-Family separation through positive parenting support. With our donation they have identified **50 at risk parents & caregivers** and delivered positive parenting training and coaching through home visits.



The Children of Madaifu is an organization based in China supporting families for a program called "**Orphanage without walls**". They are giving living allowance to **148 children and their relatives**, to enable them to live in better conditions and to access education.



Shanty Town Spirit is working in the slums of Phnom Penh and caring for over 100 kids, 50 families and 8 elderly. Our support has enabled them to invest in **school equipment & furniture** and to purchase **basic food and hygiene** products for children and their families.

SANITATION & HEALTH



Following the recent earthquakes and tsumanis in Indonesia, we shipped **first necessities and brought medical support** to the local communities. Mr Murianto, EXO representative based in Lombok has actively led the operations and provided support to the ones that needed it the most (**rice, water tanks, blankets, baby milk, soaps etc.**).

A **team of 3 doctors** was flown to Sulawesi islands twice to bring much needed **medicines**, assist extremely injured people and to donate **24 water filters** to the locals.

Since 2011, we cover salaries for the doctor, nurse, and security guard working at Ah Lett Chuang clinic. An EXO representative visits the clinic on a regular basis and oversees the allocations of funds and donations dedicated to purchasing equipment and medicines.



In the frame of a long term partnership with Va Va Cu Chi, we support literacy classes for 28 children **victims of Orange Agent** and beneficiaries of the organization based in Cu Chi Vietnam.

We sponsored Lao Friends Hospital for Children, on the occasion of the Luang Prabang Marathon. It is the only **pediatric hospital** in the region, which cares for more than 20,000 children per year!

COMMUNITY BASED TOURISM



Set up in a unique location in Northern Vietnam, La Vie Vu Linh eco-resort is providing job opportunities to people from its neighboring community. It also leads projects in the field of cultural promotion and clean energy. We support its **overall development**.



Soksabike is social enterprise based in Battambang offering cycling tours led by young local tour guides, conveying the values of responsible tourism. We have a multi faceted partnership with a strong involvement of EXO Travel Cambodia, from **training to purchasing** equipment & **advising the management** team.

We support CamConscious to develop **cultural tourism** within 5 Tampuan villages in Rattanakiri area, with a special focus on the development of their traditional arts and crafts through a women's cooperative and youth training.



ARTS & CULTURE

VIENTIANALE FILM FESTIVAL

15 - 18 MARCH

2018



Originally founded as a bi-annual event in 2009, Vientianale became the country's first film festival. Organised by a team of Lao and international coordinators, Vientianale has already run six successful editions, with a combined audience of more than 10,000 people.

From experimental shorts films to acclaimed feature films, animation to documentaries, the festival celebrates the art of film and the diversity of Lao culture, emerging as an important platform for local filmmakers to screen their works.



Vientianale On The Road, which is supported by our Foundation, is a provincial outreach program which brings the best of Lao cinema and filmmaking workshops to remote areas of the country. They organize series of mobile screenings of new Lao short and feature films, along with filmmaking workshops and activities, in remote areas.

Screenings are being held in five villages and six schools per province as well as in the provincial capital, making it a total of 35 schools and 35 villages.

EXO TRAVEL



We have continued our efforts to lead EXO on the path towards sustainability with the implementation of its Responsible Travel Policy and other strategic guidelines. In the frame of our work, we have implemented the main following actions:

- Carbon offset for all flights through an extended partnership with NEXUS for Development and improved cookstoves in Laos.
- Stop distribution of wet wipes, to reduce the use of single use plastic wrapped items.
- Expansion of Refillable bottles program to more clients and implementation of a partnership with RefillMyBottle.
- Travelife second audits for certified destinations: Thailand, Laos, Myanmar and Travelife certification for Indonesia.
- Launching of "Satisfaction At Work" survey to all EXO employees.
- Finalist to Virtuoso Award for Sustainability Leadership and awarded the Most Sustainable Travel Company by TTG. We have also co-funded IMPACT network in Vietnam for Sustainability in Tourism and participated to other relevant networks.
- New rating system to identify "Responsible experiences & short tours" in place and communicated to EXO clients.

Detailed information will be released in the "EXO Travel Sustainability Report for 2018".

A person wearing a blue shirt and a colorful plaid skirt stands in a lush green terraced rice field, holding a bright red umbrella. The field is filled with tall rice stalks and small white flowers. In the background, there are rolling hills, a line of tall pine trees, and distant mountains under a dramatic, cloudy sky.

THANK YOU

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