

Andaman Discoveries Sustainability Public Report

Data gathered from 2018-2020

We consider community based tourism a sustainable form of tourism and look at it from all angles including: monetary benefits, ecological benefits, social benefits, volunteers and study and service groups. By looking at each of these main areas, we are able to dissect elements sustainability in our programs that affect our local community partners, guests and partner agencies. Listed below is data gathered from 2018-2020 and focuses on how our community based tourism programs provide sustainability to cultural heritage preservation, ecological restoration, economic welfare for local communities and also sustainable actions for responsible guests. We also take into consideration how Andaman Discoveries as a company, is and can be more sustainable in our workplace and with our employees.

1. The number of guides per village. What is the total number of people that have a job related to CBT per village?

For all villages CBT jobs run on a que system. This means that the guides and homes are chosen based on whoever is next in line. In this way everyone gets a fair chance of being involved and there will be no fights. New people can decide to join the program if they want. Each year people can also decide to opt out for the homestay program. Some people that have newborns for example decide to not host guests for a certain amount of time. They can decide later on to rejoin the program. Every decision is made in consultation with the villagers. At the beginning and end of each season there is a meeting with the main villagers involved to discuss certain things.

Ban Talae Nok Homestay Village: Currently has 7 local guides. The village also has other villagers participating in the program. Ban Talae Nok has a total of 8 homestay homes. When bigger groups come in more houses can be made available to guests. But the number of houses that always let guests stay is 8. The total number of people that can stay in the village at once is around 50. Once family can host up to 4 guests at the same time. There are different groups for different activities such as a boat group; soap group; homes group; weaving group and batik group. The total number of people that are employed under the CBT program is 30-40. The total number of villagers is 250. This means that 12-16% of the villagers participate actively in the CBT program. The whole village can however participate if wanted/ needed. If there is a big order of soap more villagers will come in and help with that order for example.

Tung Dap Homestay Village: Has one homestay house. In this village there is a total of 4 local guides. There are different activities in Tung Dap that require different help such as boat rides, tractors rides and weaving. In total there are 20 people that are actively involved in the programs. The total population of Tung Dap is around 100 people. This means that 25% of the people in this village are involved in the CBT program.

Surin Moken Village: The Moken Tourism Team has a total of 6 guides and 15 people are actively involved in the CBT programs. This ranges from guides, to boat drivers, to handicraft artisans.

2. Andaman Discoveries community based tourism programs provide monetary value to the local communities by...

>using 39 local guides from 5 homestay program communities

- >using 34 homestay houses from 5 homestay program communities
- >providing supplementary sources of income to 99 local villagers in 5 homestay programs with communities that are involved in community based tourism activities
- >villagers participating in the community based programs have an 85 percent higher income than villagers that do not participate

3. The amount of women that are employed because of the CBT programs. Did this number increase?

Yes, more women in all the villages have jobs now. They used to stay at home to take care of the house and family. Some of them had jobs like making cigarette papers which they could do from home. The husband used to bring in the money. A lot of the men in the villages are fishermen. Now there are CBT programs many women have jobs such as soap making, teaching batik or being a tour guide. This increase in jobs means an increase in income for many families as well.

4. The types of training villagers received before/ during CBT program? Did they learn new skills?

Villagers participated in 12 different trainings to build local capacity. Please see examples below.

- > Food safety and hygiene trainings at Khao Pang Community
- > PNG Environmental Law training organized by TEI to get feedback from locals about the law
- > Training for guides to teach them everything they needed to know to become a good tour guide. The villagers were not educated in tourism or as tour guides. This training was financed by AD but the food etc. is funded through the community fund. This guide training is provided to some of the communities for free and is mandatory. People need a specific set of skills in order to be a good tour guide. The job is not for everyone.
- > Marine Safety Training at Laem Sak Community and krabi

3. Did anyone make investments (e.g. in their house) for the CBT/ homestay programs?

Community fund or pay for it themselves. When someone is capable of investing themselves they do and if not then they could make use of the community fund. AD loaned money to Tung Dap so they could buy solar panels. Each month this loan is paid back for through the community fund.

9. What do the schools do with the donations of volunteers? Are there any examples?

- > Invest in English programs because usually there is no budget to hire a foreign teacher that can speak English with the children. The donations can be used to make this possible.
- > Invest in extra activities such as fairs, school trips, English camps

10. How does the community based tourism program benefit the sustainability of the entire community and provide solidarity? What is done with the Community fund

> A community fund is allocated into our program price. The community can use the fund in any way. For example: Electricity for mosque, scholarships for school, cleaning day in village support the food and drinks, meetings, trainings outside.

11. How do Andaman Discoveries programs provide social benefits?

>Provide 27 program activities in 5 different homestay communities that promote cultural preservation

15. How have Study and Service Groups promoted sustainability?

- > 10 study and service groups supported 4 communities with activities that promoted ecological restoration
- >10 study and service groups participated in 20 project activities that promoted cultural exchange and learning
- >study and service groups participated in 7 project activities that focused on learning about the local environment
- >9 study and service groups have completed 18 service projects focusing on educational facility repair, beautification and English learning
- >Study and service groups have taught 5 main life skills to under privileged Burmese Students
- >Study and Service Groups have donated over 391,045 THB to the Andaman Center for Migrant Education