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LGT Venture Philanthropy partners with Blue Ventures to support coastal communities in the tropics to rebuild marine ecosystems and protect their livelihoods

LGT Venture Philanthropy Foundation (LGT VP), today announced a new engagement to support marine conservation organisation Blue Ventures (BV). With LGT VP's flexible, non-programmatic funding and operational support, BV will implement its expansion strategy, working with partner organizations to establish locally managed marine areas (LMMAs), empowering coastal communities to protect critically important marine ecosystems.

Blue Ventures is dedicated to preserving marine life by working with the people to whom it is most vital - small scale fishers. Blue Ventures works in places that are home to globally important biodiversity and some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable coastal populations.

The NGO works alongside communities and in partnership with locally based organisations in ten countries in East Africa, Southeast Asia and the Caribbean. The heart of Blue Ventures' approach is building strong local institutions that are able to secure community rights to manage and protect their fisheries. This includes protecting ecosystems through fisheries closures and marine reserves and incentivising locally led conservation by demonstrating the benefits that can flow from well managed oceans -- from improved fisheries to blue carbon finance.

Through Blue Ventures' work, the organisation has so far reached 449,871 people, facilitating 505 fisheries closures and work in 295 communities. As well as boosting catches and income for these small-scale fishers, the organisation's efforts have led to communities taking broader and more-ambitious steps toward marine protection, including zoning large areas of ocean under their stewardship as protected areas.

LGT VP is committed to protecting and regenerating marine ecosystems in ways that are embedded and managed by local communities and that integrate Natural Climate Solutions. "We believe that BV's work is fundamental in empowering local communities to rehabilitate coastal ecosystems and

protect their livelihoods. This is particularly important as the growing effects of climate change and marine degradation threaten the survival of these communities and diversity of our oceans. BV has developed unique approaches that are anchored in local coastal communities, that are scalable and that are replicated by partners around the Indian Ocean and the Coral Triangle. We are proud to have BV as our anchor partner in marine conservation and excited to work with a deeply dedicated and experienced team,” says Oliver Karius, Partner at LGT VP.

“We protect marine ecosystems by enabling and empowering coastal communities to manage their environment and advocate for their rights”, said Dr. Alasdair Harris, Blue Ventures’ Executive Director. “Partnerships play a vital role for Blue Ventures to achieve the non-linear growth necessary to tackle the scale and speed of the climate emergency. We are investing in and supporting local partners aligned with our values and purpose and supporting them to scale up locally led marine protection efforts throughout the coastal tropics, to halt biodiversity loss and tackle poverty. “We are delighted to partner with LGT VP on this next phase of expanding our reach and impact,”

Alasdair says, "Through the financial and strategic support offered by LGT VP, we will achieve impact at scale, ensuring that more tropical coastal communities are able to manage their marine resources sustainably and build resilience to the growing climate threat. Climate change is unjust, disproportionately threatening vulnerable communities who've done the least to cause it with the greatest impacts. This partnership will enable us to accelerate our reach, supporting new communities to adapt to the challenges ahead."

He continues, “Blue Ventures is thrilled to have taken this exciting step with LGT VP towards conserving the ocean and its rich biodiversity, while securing sustainable incomes and food security for coastal people, now and in the future.”

Blue Ventures is a marine conservation organisation dedicated to rebuilding tropical fisheries with coastal communities. They are committed to making conservation work for people, demonstrating powerful win-wins for marine biodiversity and coastal livelihoods.

Blue Ventures’ approach enables communities to lead the stewardship of their marine environment. This way of working has triggered a multiplier effect with hundreds of communities forming collective associations to manage fisheries closures and gain legal rights over thousands of square miles of coast and ocean.

To find out more visit their [website](#) or contact Ngaio Bowthorpe, Communications Manager at ngaio@blueventures.org