

# Massive Mangrove

# Clean-up



## SUPERYACHT TEAMS ENGAGE IN SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROJECT IN KHO YAO NOI

22 December 2019. Superyacht Services Guide's Zara Tremlett and Yacht Concierge Thailand's Suwannee Wangpol, organized an amazingly successful mangrove clean-up together with the captains & crew of MY Ace (87m), MY Garcon (67m), the local Koh Yao Noi community and the team from Six Senses. Yao Noi.

by the Superyacht Services Guide



Photo by Srisakul (Joy) Boonyakongrat

**Z**ara Tremlett, a regional author for the Superyacht Services Guide (SSG) was contacted by captain **Vladimir Celar Afni of MY Ace**, Ace's owner and crew strongly wished to make a positive impact for a local community and their environment during their cruise in Asia. They wanted to use this as an example Social Responsibility Project for the Superyacht Marine Industry. The Monaco Yacht Club also got behind their initiative as well and will later showcase the footage of the clean-up and subsequent local school visit.

The two yachts set up an internal committee to handle the project, headed by Captain Vladimir and administered by Garcon crew member Daniela. Zara, knowing they would embrace such an event, enlisted the help of Suwannee Wangpol, of Yacht Concierge Thailand and Srisakul Boonyakongrat (Joy) a locally based Superyacht Stewardess. They both were priceless.

Suwannee contacted Phuu Yai Baan (village head) Khun Praphan Bernarmad (Phuu Yai Yah) on Koh Yao Noi island with large mangrove areas in desperate need of cleaning-up.

The village and the school on Yao Noi had been involved in environmental projects before, working with Khun Pimjai Doungnate, Sustainability Manager at the Six Senses resort on the island. Since many people on Koh Yao Noi are fishermen, everyone understands that mangroves are important hatcheries for juvenile sea life.

### CLEAN-UP DAY

Keeping the full sustainability programme in mind, and involving local communities and economy, longtails from the Koh Yao Noi

community arrived at Ao Po Grand Marina in the early morning taking the superyacht group of over 45 clean-up enthusiasts to the Manoh Pier, where the local Songtaews were ready and waiting to take us on a very scenic 15 minute ride to the Mangrove area. Khun Praphan Bernarmad (K.Yah) had specifically requested help in cleaning this area. As Phuu Yai Yah was otherwise engaged at the clean up day itself, Phuu Yai Dusit stepped in and when we arrived at the mangroves 30 children from the local community were already hard at work, along with a team from the Six Senses Yao Noi resort.

*"Superyachts normally leave only a small footprint ... let's make sure it is a positive one"*



Gloves and rubbish bags were immediately handed out and a team of over 80 people in total did not stop cleaning for about 2 hours. Zara Tremlett comments: 'The 2 yachts provided rakes and spades so we managed to dig down a layer or two. There was an immense energy as we all worked together, cutting rotten fishing nets away from mangrove and scooping up polystyrene. The Phuu Yai Baan had arranged the Rubbish truck which took away a total of 4 loads – an estimated 500 bags of rubbish, all collected in about 2 hours!'

The plan was then to head to the local school and spend time with the children, but Po Yai Baan kindly wanted to thank everyone & took us for local coffee and treats first. Then it was off to the school where Daniela, from MY Garcon (assisted by Joy as translator) leapt into her role by interacting with the children about the creatures they loved from the sea, thus reinforcing to them how we must not litter, must not use plastic if we can help it and recycle as we can.

Captains Vladimir and James, joined Daniela in handing out educational books, upcycled pencils and reusable water bottles to the children. The smiles said it all, from everyone there.

A final ride back to the pier and a sleepy longtail trip to Ao Po Grand Marina bought the incredibly successful morning to a positive... if exhausted...end.

K. Pim, of Six Senses Yao Noi, who supplied the garbage bags, has a longer experience of working with local communities on Koh Yao Noi and finds it 'especially encouraging to make a lasting impression with the school children, who are the adults of tomorrow'.

Zara Tremlett says: "The team of the Superyacht Services Guide seeks to actively promote and organise activities like this, involving superyacht catpains and crew. The day was a huge success for all and a big learning experience as well. The logistics of it all and the preparations for making it a safe work experience for the cleaners. The work is absolutely exhausting, and next time we need to drink even more water!"

She continues: 'Even though the clean-up as such is only a mall drop in the ocean of plastic waste, we believe it helps create connection and awareness. We will defintely organise more events like this, the next one in February for the cruisers group of Sail Thailand rally. As a media company we also intend to publish guidelines and checklists for teams who wish to organise similar events in other locations. For that we actively work together with clean-up groups elsewhere, so we are not re-inventing the wheel".'

### FEEDBACK FROM THE CLEANERS

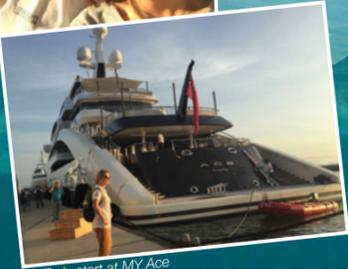
Both amongst superyacht owners and crew, there is a growing awareness and demand for participating in events like this. New yacht owners are looking into new purposes for superyachting. They engage in environmental surveys and, while visiting remote and exotic areas, they look for ways of giving back to local communities. Increasingly owners want their yacht to be more than a super luxury hangout for a happy few.

Captain Vladimir says: 'Most of the crew had never been to Asia before and our team of young enthusiast people absolutely loved the opportunity to meet and work together with the local villagers and school children. We were received with such kindness, joy and warmth and have made real friends. For the crew being able to engage in activities like this, is a very very cool way to see the world, connect with other people, learn about other cultures and at the same time help to make a difference".'

Phuu Yai Dusit and the villagers were equally happy with the clean-up day. At first they wondered why young people would want to spend their day cleaning-up mangroves, but once they saw it in action they understood it was not a one-way affair but a matter of real exchange, connection and a fun day for all.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ORGANISING A CLEAN-UP WITH YOUR CREW?

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Captain James & Joy

Phuu Yai Dusit of Koh Yao Yai

Colouring books

MY Garcon

Captain James of MY Garcon

Phuu Yai Baan Yah of Koh Yao Noi

Zara and Joy

Captain Vladimir of MY Ace

Leaving Ao Po Grand Marina

Early start at MY Ace