



Supplier Stories

The following are examples of Intrepid partners and suppliers who are taking action to manage their environmental footprint, from transitioning to green and electric power, reducing waste and water use and creating innovative solutions to local environmental issues.



Malealea Lodge and Eco Cook Bags Initiative

Malealea, Lesotho

Eco Cook Bags is a community-driven sustainability project based out of the Malealea Lodge in Lesotho. In partnership with the Malealea Development Trust, it produces biodegradable cooking bags that use heat-retention cooking technology. Food is briefly boiled using minimal fuelwood, then placed inside the insulated bag where it continues cooking without further heat.

The Eco Cook Bags generate lower carbon emissions, reduce indoor smoke pollution and families can spend less time collecting firewood.

Over 1,000 Bags have been handmade within the community using locally sourced organic fibres. The production process has resulted in job creation, strengthening local economic resilience.

The project has also gained national recognition, including a visit from King Letsie III of Lesotho.

The Eco Cook Bags initiative demonstrates how tourism can support meaningful climate action, sustainable livelihoods and improve everyday living conditions in rural communities

Intrepid Itineraries that stay at Malealea Lodge: Kruger, Coast and Cape and Garden Route Adventure



Obelisk Nile Hotel

Aswan, Egypt

Located on the banks of the Nile, Obelisk Nile Hotel has been a partner of Intrepid since 2019. As part of its environmental commitment, Obelisk Nile Hotel has implemented several sustainability initiatives:

- Reducing food waste through improved operational planning
- Introducing water conservation measures such as low-flow fixtures and leak detection systems
- Reducing single-use plastics by replacing disposable items with biodegradable and reusable alternatives including glass bottles and cloth bags.
- The hotel is also continuously improving its recycling practices and environmental compliance standards to help minimize its environmental impact.

The Obelisk Nile Hotel continues to promote responsible tourism in Aswan, offering guests experiences that help preserve the natural beauty and cultural value of the Nile region.



Hotel Auténtico

San José, Costa Rica



Hotel Auténtico is an urban hotel located in the heart of San José, Costa Rica, committed to creating a more sustainable and responsible hospitality experience. A new solar panel system was recently installed and has enabled the hotel to significantly reduce its dependency on conventional energy sources and lower its carbon footprint.

The solar energy project is complemented by a broader sustainability program focused on responsible resource management including:

1. Energy-saving technologies: sensor lights in common areas, energy-efficient air conditioning units, LED lights and rooms are painted in light colours to reflect natural light
2. Water conservation systems: aerators in taps and showers to reduce water flow, native gardens requiring less water
3. Waste management and plastic reduction: products are in reusable or returnable containers, rechargeable batteries are used

Training, staff engagement and monitoring programs are also creating a culture of sustainability that involves both team members and guests.

In addition to renewable energy initiatives, the hotel has obtained recognition and certifications including the Certification for Sustainable Tourism Élite, Network Sofía, The Code of Conduct, and Essencial Costa Rica. These reflect its commitment to responsible tourism, social impact, and the promotion of Costa Rican values.

Intrepid Itinerary: [Classic Costa Rica](#), [Central American Journey](#) and [Costa Rica Family Holiday](#)



Inkaterra

Madre de Dios Amazon Rainforest, Machu Picchu, Sacred Valley, Cusco and Cabo Blanco, Peru

Founded in 1975, Inkaterra is a Peruvian pioneer in ecotourism. Its model combines hospitality, scientific research, biodiversity conservation, education, and community well-being under a long-term regenerative tourism approach.

Environmental management is a core component of all of its operations. In Machu Picchu, Inkaterra has spent nearly five decades restoring a degraded landscape within the Historic Sanctuary. It has transformed former grasslands and agricultural areas into a highly biodiverse cloud forest ecosystem that is now home to 372 native orchid species and 316 bird species recorded by eBird.

Across all of its operations, Inkaterra continuously strengthens its environmental practices through carbon management, ecosystem restoration, scientific partnerships, waste reduction, responsible sourcing, and conservation programs directly connected to local territories and communities.

Intrepid Itineraries: [Premium Peru](#) and [Premium Peru in Depth](#)



Spice Route Luxury Cruises

Alleppey Backwaters of Kerala, India

Operating in the fragile backwater ecosystem of Kerala comes with great responsibility. Spice Route Luxury Cruises has implemented a range of initiatives to protect the local environment and support local communities:

- The fleet of 8 houseboats are powered by hybrid diesel engines, cutting diesel use by 25% and reducing noise pollution. A win for both guests and local wildlife.
- Kitchen waste is separated: food scraps become feed for nearby duck farms and other waste is brought ashore for recycling. Biodegradable toilets process waste onboard.
- 90% of fish, vegetables, and spices are sourced from backwater villages within 10km, supporting local fishermen and farmers while cutting food miles.

Spice Route Luxury Cruises partners with the Kerala State Pollution Control Board for monthly water quality checks and participates in Vembanad Lake cleanup drives with local NGOs. By 2027, they aim to convert one boat to be completely electric and achieve Green Certification from Kerala Tourism.



Intrepid Itinerary: Premium India in Depth



JK Resident

Siem Reap, Cambodia

As a proudly local, women-owned business, JK Resident stands out for its strong commitment to sustainability and community-driven values. The hotel integrates locally sourced and recycled materials into its design and decoration, creating a space that reflects both Cambodian culture and environmental consciousness.

Over its 15-year partnership with Intrepid, JK Resident has embraced deeper sustainability practices. The transition from single-use plastic water bottles to refillable glass bottles, the installation of complimentary water refill stations, and the replacement of plastic amenities with natural-material alternatives demonstrate a shared commitment to reducing its environmental impact.

This collaboration has not only strengthened the business's eco-friendly operations but also contributed to wider positive change—supporting local suppliers, inspiring staff, and setting an example for responsible tourism in the region.

Intrepid Itinerary: [Cambodia Adventure](#)



Mersea Restaurant

San Francisco, USA

Based on Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay, Mersea Restaurant has been designed and built with a commitment to environmental responsibility.

The restaurant has been constructed entirely from used shipping containers, with table and chairs crafted from repurposed or recycled materials. Some was sourced from an old local bowling alley.

The team at Mersea also prioritizes hiring from the local community, including veterans and graduates from a career training program that provides support for young people from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Intrepid Itinerary: [Hiking in Yosemite National Park](#)





Stay Intrepid

Intrepid has launched 'Stay Intrepid', a **new collection of six properties that offer experience-led, community-driven stays**. The range includes five signature properties across Australia, as well as a riad in Morocco, with plans to grow into new destinations in the coming years.

The accommodation, which can be booked independent of Intrepid tours, are distinct in character but united by Intrepid's locally-led, responsible travel ethos, supporting local businesses, celebrating regional cuisine and driving positive impact through partnerships with Intrepid's non-profit, The Intrepid Foundation. The following are three of the properties in Intrepid's portfolio.



Daintree Ecolodge

Daintree, Australia

At Daintree Ecolodge, climate action is an ongoing focus, with practical steps being taken to reduce emissions and operate more efficiently. Since being featured in last year's newsletter, **the property now runs on 100% renewable electricity** through a combination of on-site solar and accredited GreenPower. The team is also introducing smart monitoring for air conditioning systems, allowing units to be managed remotely and used more efficiently. This helps reduce unnecessary energy consumption from rooms being cooled when not in use or set outside optimal temperatures.

Beyond the property, Daintree Ecolodge supports broader climate and conservation efforts. Through participation in the Containers for Change scheme, the team contributes to local recycling initiatives, with proceeds directed to Rainforest Rescue, an Intrepid Foundation partner working to protect biodiversity in the Daintree region.

Together, these actions reflect a commitment to climate-conscious operations, while supporting the long-term health of this unique environment.



Edge of the Bay

Coles Bay, Tasmania

Overlooking Freycinet National Park, Edge of the Bay is one of Intrepid's newer property acquisitions, quietly shaping a more climate-conscious way of operating.

With less than a year of operations, the team has moved quickly to embed practical actions that help reduce emissions and resource use. Single use items have been removed from guest rooms in favour of refillable amenities, and water efficient showerheads are being rolled out across the property to lower water and energy demand without compromising comfort. In the kitchen, a strong commitment to local sourcing means most food and beverage offerings come from within Tasmania, cutting down on transport-related emissions while celebrating the region's quality and freshness.

Looking ahead, further steps are taking shape. The team is exploring solar energy and upgrading equipment over time to more efficient alternatives, reducing overall energy use and reliance on higher-emission sources. These changes, taken together, support a gradual reduction in the property's footprint.



Arkaba Homestead

Flinders Ranges, Australia

Arkaba Homestead is one of the newest additions to the Stay Intrepid portfolio. Located in South Australia's Flinders Ranges, it was once a working sheep station. Today, the property forms part of a conservation-focused landscape, where efforts centre on restoring natural ecosystems and strengthening the land's resilience in a changing climate.

Through the gradual removal of grazing pressures and the control of pest species, the landscape is being given the space to recover. Over time, this has contributed to the return of the Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby and the Western Quoll, alongside a broader increase in wildlife and regenerating bushland. These changes support biodiversity while helping to rebuild healthier, more resilient ecosystems.

Operations at Arkaba are designed to tread lightly. Energy is sourced through a mix of solar and accredited GreenPower, reducing reliance on fossil fuels, while waste is monitored to minimise impact. With guest numbers capped at ten at any one time, the experience remains intentionally low in scale, helping to reduce pressure on the surrounding environment.

Here, climate action is shaped by a steady, considered approach that brings together conservation and day-to-day operations.



The Intrepid Foundation:

Environmentally- focused partners and campaign for World Animal Protection



PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH THE INTREPID FOUNDATION



As part of Intrepid's commitment to responsible travel, The Intrepid Foundation connects our global community with grassroots organisations creating meaningful change in the destinations we visit.

Here are two examples of projects supported through The Intrepid Foundation, delivered by locally led partners creating environmental impact in their communities.

Positive Change for Marine Life

Positive Change for Marine Life is transforming the world of waste with regular pick-ups and a first of its kind community-led composting program. With support from The Intrepid Foundation, the program's reach has expanded from Kovalam into Kottapuram and Poovar, where students and community members are taking composting into their own homes. In 2025, teams processed around 70kg of organic waste per day, with more than 325 households involved, and have plans to scale to 200kg. This will support over 1700 community members and directly enable the employment of five additional local women.



Greening Australia

Australia's environment is incredibly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and accelerating biodiversity loss. While restoration efforts are gaining momentum nationally, large scale, systemic change is required. That's where Greening Australia comes in. In the past year, Greening Australia has scaled ecosystem recovery on a national level, supported by First Nations-led design and delivery. Across over 50 restoration sites, local teams planted 2.5 million native plants, distributed more than eight tonnes of native seeds and prevented 14,000 tonnes of pollutants from reaching seas.



An elephant is shown in a lush green forest, partially obscured by foliage. The elephant's head and trunk are visible, and it appears to be looking towards the camera. The background is filled with dense green leaves and branches.

Give elephants room to roam

Support sanctuary transitions

in Thailand this June and your donation to World Animal Protection will be matched up to AUD 50,000.

Double my donation



Intrepid
Foundation



Give Elephants Room to Roam

Give in June and we'll double your donation to double your impact.

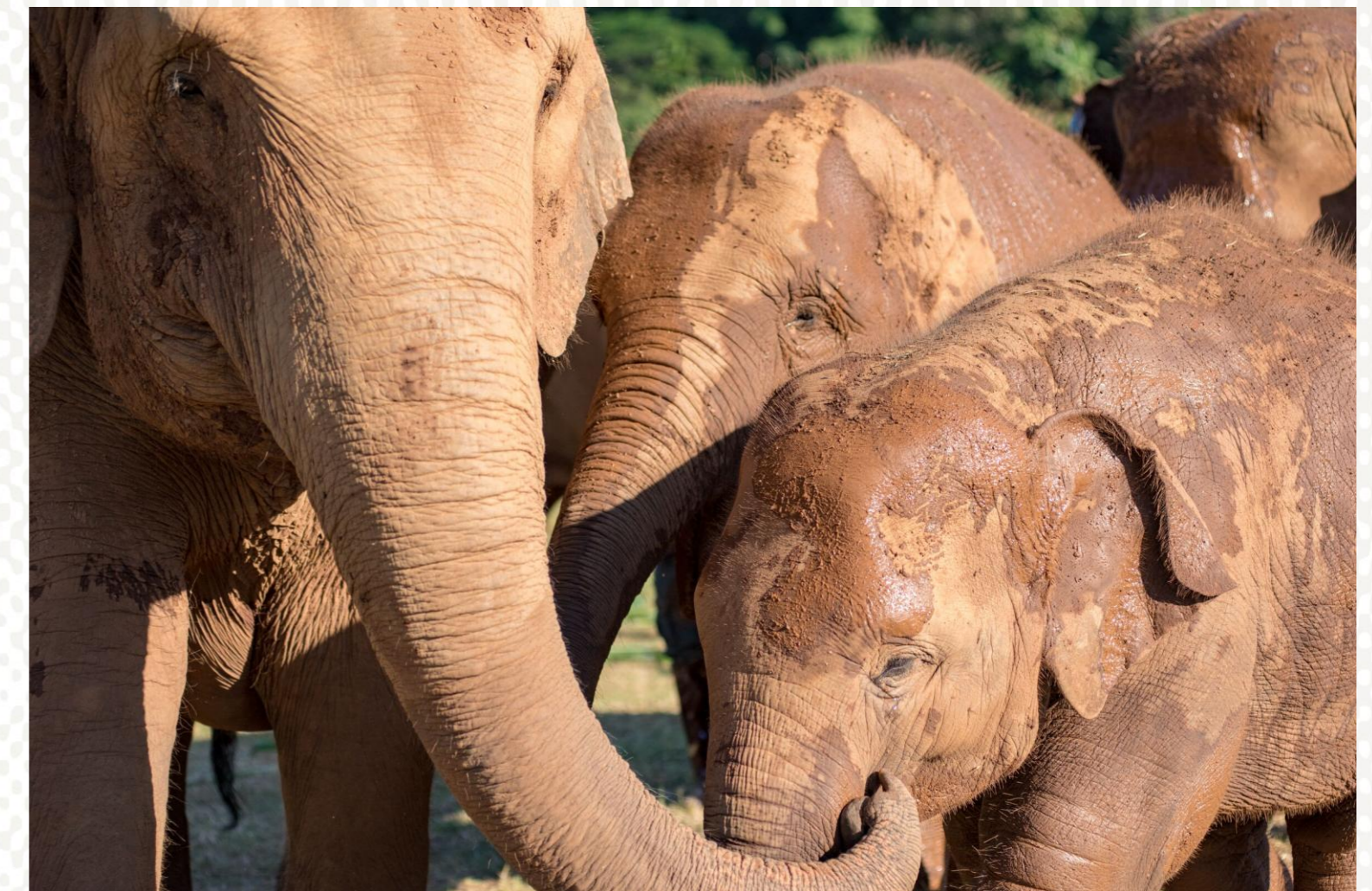
In 2026, World Animal Protection aims to transition three venues into sanctuaries, transforming their animal welfare practices so elephants can move freely, socialise naturally, and live without fear or forced human interaction.

Your donation will support:

- Elephant welfare and safety
- Elephant nutrition and enrichment
- Welfare for elephant carers (known as Mahouts)
- The construction of new observation-only visitor experiences at sanctuaries

These safe havens will create a place for elephants who have been abused since they were young.

Donations are tax-deductible in Australia and the US, but meaningful for animal-lovers everywhere. Visit [here](#) for more info.



To learn more about these initiatives please contact your
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THANK YOU

