



**Venture
Philanthropy**

For Immediate Release:

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LGT Venture Philanthropy partners with Dakshin to scale its SeaChange initiative to restore coastal ecosystems and improve livelihoods across three states and two union territories in India

Bengaluru, India, April 2023 – LGT Venture Philanthropy Foundation (LGT VP) is delighted to announce its new engagement with Dakshin Foundation, to support marine conservation models which restore coastal ecosystems and improve the livelihoods of small-scale fishers. After a decade of implementing programs related to conservation, policy research analysis, and community well-being and livelihoods, Dakshin has identified scalable elements from these programs to create an integrated model – ‘SeaChange’. LGT VP will support Dakshin in scaling the SeaChange program across critical coastal ecosystems in India.

Reputed marine conservation organization, deeply rooted in local communities

Dakshin is a non-profit organization that works towards achieving marine conservation outcomes, while supporting livelihoods, social development, and fostering collaboration between government entities and communities to realize these objectives.

Drawing from the varied academic background of its four founder-trustees, the organization has adopted an interdisciplinary approach to solving the linked issues of biodiversity loss and livelihood challenges. Dakshin collaborates closely with local communities, involving all relevant stakeholders including village institutions, community leaders, local NGOs, and government officials from departments like the Department of Forests and the Department of Fisheries. This early-stage involvement enables the design of inclusive and context-specific solutions that address the needs of each community. Dakshin also works closely with local government agencies to strengthen democratic governance processes.

In 2021, Dakshin conceptualized the ‘SeaChange’ initiative, which integrates elements from its existing programs into a holistic and scalable intervention. The initiative has been designed to leverage collective action and community support to implement multiple interventions simultaneously using SeaChange’s site team and members from its existing programs. Through SeaChange, Dakshin will look to rapidly scale its interventions across multiple coastal states in India.

Conservation models embedded in local communities – an integral part of LGT VP’s India environment strategy

LGT VP’s environment strategy is to protect and regenerate ecosystems by focusing on scalable terrestrial and marine conservation models that are embedded in the local community. LGT VP India

supports organizations that work closely with the local community to create contextual solutions. Dakshin's approach of involving all relevant stakeholders from design to implementation complements LGT VP's strategy in India.

Sreejan Dutta, Investment Manager, explains: "We are inspired by Dakshin's well-established partnership with relevant stakeholders across diverse ecosystems across India. Its approach of bringing local communities and government officials together to restore coastal ecosystems and improve the livelihoods of small-scale fishers is a great alternative to fortress conservation measures. With India signing up for the '30 by 30' initiative, Dakshin can greatly contribute to India's marine conservation targets for 2030 in a socially just manner. LGT VP is excited to support Dakshin with its '1,000 Hamlets Vision' – scaling the SeaChange program to over 1,000 fishing villages in India."

Marianne Manuel, Director of Dakshin, echoes: "Dakshin hopes that our collective action-driven SeaChange initiative can catalyze both environmental sustainability and community well-being. We are excited to partner with LGT VP on this venture and hope to build a socially just model of transformation for India's coastal, marine and island geographies."

***Dakshin Foundation (Dakshin)** is a trust registered under Section 12 A of the Income Tax Act of 1961 and is a non-profit charitable organization. Dakshin was founded in 2008 with a mission to inform and advocate conservation and natural resource management, while promoting and supporting sustainable livelihoods, social development, and environmental justice. Dakshin has designed, tested, and perfected its programs for over a decade. In 2021, it conceptualized the SeaChange program, which brings together scalable elements of its programs to simultaneously achieve conservation and livelihoods outcomes. For more information, please visit www.dakshin.org.*

LGT Venture Philanthropy (LGT VP)

LGT Venture Philanthropy is an independent charitable foundation established in 2007 with partners in Switzerland, Sub-Saharan Africa, and India. The Foundation strives to improve the quality of life of people facing disadvantages, contribute to healthy ecosystems, and build resilient, inclusive, and prosperous communities. LGT VP focuses on strengthening the capabilities of locally rooted organizations that deliver effective, scalable solutions across health, education, and the environment contributing directly to the SDGs.

For more information, please visit www.lgtvp.com