

# **SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERS – ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21**

## **1. Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisers**

Sustainability Partners, was registered with the Charity commission on 22 May 2007, number 1119345.

Trustees during the year 2020-21 were: RHJ Hopwood (Managing Trustee), AL Hopwood, CR Hopwood and. MJ StJohn .

## **2. Structure, governance and management**

The charity is a charitable trust, governed by a Declaration of Trust signed on 15 February 2007. It is managed by a board of trustees. All new grants and investments are approved by the board of trustees as a whole, payments are then made by the managing trustee using electronic banking. General administration, such as keeping records and accounts, dealing with correspondence and drafting reports for approval is the responsibility of the managing trustee.

Due to Covid restrictions, the board did not meet during the year, business was conducted by e-mail and telephone.

## **3. Financial Review**

Income reduced again, largely due to the timing of the GiftAid claim close to the year end. Grant making reduced in proportion, reserves were essentially unchanged and remain sufficient to cover committed payments for two years.

Cash reserves are held in a deposit account.

Funds not required for short term use are invested in organisations which support the charity's objectives. These include Oicocredit which supports micro-credit societies in many poor countries, Thrive Renewables which invests in renewable energy schemes in the UK, the Shared Interest Society which provides loan finance to fair trade organisations, Triodos Bank and the John Cleveland College Community Woodheat Cooperative.

## **4. Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others**

The charity does not hold funds on behalf of others.

## 5. Public benefit statement

The trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when approving grants and have managed the charity in accordance with the declaration of trust and approved objectives.

## 6. Objectives and activities

The charity's objectives are:

1. To develop the capacity and skills of the members of socially and economically disadvantaged communities in such a way that they are better able to identify and help meet their needs and to participate more fully in society, in particular but not exclusively by supporting the development of self help associations.
2. To relieve financial hardship, either generally or individually, through the provision of grants, goods or services.
3. To promote the protection and sustainable use of the natural environment for the benefit of the public, through education, training and demonstration projects.

During the year we pursued these objectives by making grants to nine organisations in three countries:

### Nicaragua

1. **Los Angelitos**, a youth music group in Esteli, aims to develop young people's skills and self-confidence and counter the spread of gang culture. At year end there were 38 youngsters learning to play an instrument or sing. Members of the first intake are acting as tutors for the new students. Income from public performances helps to pay college fees.
2. **Colibrí Iniciativa Arte Infantil**, also based in Esteli, is a youth theatre group using 'Theatre of the Oppressed' techniques to help young people explore their past and present situation while developing social skills and self-confidence. Following successful fundraising efforts they have refurbished and redecorated their accommodation and expanded to include handicraft and cooking classes for adults.
3. **Sunshine English School**, aims to develop the self-confidence and employment prospects of children from a poor barrio in Esteli. The school is now firmly established; we support the day to day running costs. We increased our regular grant to compensate for the loss of tourist income due to the Covid pandemic.
4. **Luz Verde Social Projects** continue to support eco-tourism, vegetable gardens and other income generating projects plus a 'Library Bus' in the Miraflores Natural Reserve near Esteli. We increased our regular core funding to help counter the loss of tourist income.

5. **Asociación Tierra** is a Nicaraguan NGO associated with the La Mariposa language school and eco-hotel, based in La Concepcion. It works to protect and improve the local environment and provide sustainable employment for local people. In addition to core funding we supported their appeals to replace trading income due to the pandemic and to support their help to local villagers following two hurricanes in late 2020.

## Indonesia

6. **Senang Hati** is a local NGO started and run by disabled people in Gianyar, Bali. Our regular core funding grant covers the bills for electricity, gas, food and domestic supplies.
7. **Ayu Indonesia** is a local NGO based in Ruteng, Flores working with poor rural communities in Manggarai district. They reported on the successful project training rural health workers but no additional funds were sent this year.
8. In addition we made one-off emergency grants to **Tananua Flores Foundation**, a partner from some years ago based in Ende and **Yayasan Pengkajian dan Pengembangan Sosial** a new contact based in Lantaka, recommended by Ayu Indonesia, to support their response to the floods and landslides caused by cyclone Seroja.

## Moldova

9. **Phoenix** is a day centre for disabled children in Riscani which provides care, company, stimulus and treatment to children who continue to live at home with their families. This year the scope was extended to include a new old people's home. We contribute to the core funding of the centre.

## 7. Achievements and performance

All in all this has been a successful year despite the restrictions imposed by the Covid 19 pandemic.

We normally provide on-going core funding but areas of both Nicaragua and Indonesia where our partners work were affected by heavy rainfall and landslides. Having trusted partners in the area we were able to send funds quickly to support local self-help efforts.

Cash reserves remained high and the overall financial position remains satisfactory.

## Annual accounts for the financial year 2020/21

Opening balance		(2019/20)
- Cash at bank	4316.11	3205.72
- Investments	14890.04	14939.04
- Loans outstanding	2136.00	4849.94
- Funds in Nicaragua	464.00	384.00
- Total	<b>21806.15</b>	<b>23378.70</b>
Income		
- Donations – general	9880.00	13271.91
- Donations – restricted	20334.48	19203.72
- Interest & dividends	276.46	684.52
- Total	<b>30490.94</b>	<b>33160.15</b>
Grants		
- General	9418.32	13419.04
- Restricted	20789.44	18240.32
Total	<b>30207.76</b>	<b>31659.36</b>
Administration		
- Bank charges	122.80	275.20
- Tax	0	19.20
- Web site	201.60	96.00
- Travel costs	0	0
- Total	<b>324.40</b>	<b>390.40</b>
Asset changes	(317.58)	(2682.94)
Surplus (deficit) for the year	<b>(358.80)</b>	<b>(1572.55)</b>
Closing balance		
- Cash at bank	4274.89	4316.11
- Investments	14572.46	14890.04
- Loans outstanding	2136.00	2136.00
- Funds in Nicaragua	464.00	464.00
- Total	<b>21447.35</b>	<b>21806.15</b>

Note: GiftAid has been included in donation totals.

Approved by the board



R H J Hopwood, Managing Trustee



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Approved by the board



R H J Hopwood, Managing Trustee



**SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERS (REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1119345):  
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES FOR FOR THE FINANCIAL  
YEAR 2020/21**

This document constitutes my report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Sustainability Partners ("the Charity") for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

This report is in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under s.145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

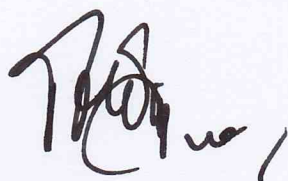
I confirm that I observed no material matters giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

In this review I examined the controlling spreadsheet which contains the individual records of income and grant & administrative expenditure and changes in assets which support the detail summarised in the accounts statement in the Annual Report of the Charity for the period under review. I found the basis of accounting to be sound and that all entries contain references and explanations. This statement is made notwithstanding that there is no requirement that an independent examination gives consideration to whether the accounts give a 'true and fair view'.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I declare that I have no interest in or any connection with Sustainability Partners or its operations and that this report is provided independently.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick O'Grady', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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**Patrick Michael O'Grady FCIS FCG**  
ICSA member no. 3010123

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