

Spotlight on

NGC was incorporated to stand as a proxy for the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago in the commercialisation of natural gas, and ensure that rents from the industry were channelled back to the ultimate owners of the resource. The primary mechanisms which have allowed NGC to share the profits of its business with wider society have been dividends and taxes to Government.

However, along the way, as NGC's footprint grew and operations took the Company into the heart of communities, the opportunity presented for NGC to make more direct infusions of capital into the lives of citizens. 'The people' were not an amorphous far-removed shareholder, but neighbours with names and faces, goals and ambitions, challenges and fears. These were lives that NGC directly impacted, and could directly improve, outside of its contributions to the public purse.

THE EVOLUTION OF CSR

In 1992, a Community Relations (CR) Department was formed to conceptualise and administer programmes that would benefit members of fenceline communities in or near which NGC had an infrastructural or operational presence. Due to the expanse of NGC's network, many interventions were broad scale, even national in impact. Early programmes sought to equip residents to find gainful employment, refurbished or built sporting and training facilities, invested in youth empowerment and education, facilitated cultural preservation, supported NGOs and other worthy social causes.

In addition to their social benefits, such programmes helped the Company build reputational currency in its spaces of operation, as well as strong, symbiotic relationships. Supported communities could be relied upon to partner with NGC in the event of emergencies, and to defend its license to operate.

As the years went by, NGC's approach to its social interventions evolved along with international best practice. The discourse changed from CR to Corporate Social Investment (CSI), which was later replaced by Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The changing terminology reflected the different philosophies that drove investment in community and social causes. Behind the nomenclature, however, there was a common thread – a commitment to care for people and planet.

OVERVIEW OF HIGHLIGHT CSR INVESTMENTS

Since the start of its CSR programme, NGC has given support in cash, kind and volunteer time to hundreds of groups, entities and causes throughout Trinidad and Tobago. Some investments have been proactively initiated, based on recognised needs in communities or social sectors, while others have been made in response to requests received. The following pages outline some of the big investments made by the Company over the years, as well as the outcomes achieved with NGC's support.



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Marine Environmental Awareness Programme (MEAP)

Coastal community training programme to train residents from across all coasts of Trinidad and Tobago to build and fix boats, repair boat engines and make and repair fishing nets. The programme evolved to include courses in life-saving skills as well as fruit, meat and fish processing.

Outcomes

Development of income-generating and livelihood-supporting skills sets

Reforestation programme

Large-scale reforestation exercise to replant areas cleared during pipeline construction activities in South Trinidad. Over 315 hectares have been replanted with more than 13,000 trees.

Outcomes

Restoration of a dense, mixed-species tree canopy in degraded sites; employment and training opportunities in site communities



Energy SmartTT App

Mobile app developed in-house to educate and sensitise the national public around the issue of energy efficiency

Outcomes

Support of the national clean energy agenda; more responsible energy consumption practices at the domestic level

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90s

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LAUNCHED IN

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Self-Initiated Projects



NGC Right on Track

Science-based programme that introduces children to the fundamentals of both track and field and basketball, through a roving caravan that takes lessons into communities and schools throughout the year.

Outcomes

Discovery and development of young sporting talent; feeder for national athletics programmes



Pan score transcription project

Project to record, transcribe and publish scores from Panorama compositions of NGC-sponsored steel bands.

Outcomes

Enrichment of local repository of steelpan music scores; preservation of locally produced music for posterity.

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Lydian Singers and Steel Orchestra

Decorated local choir formerly led by the late Dr. Pat Bishop TC, which performs with accompaniment from Indian and African drums, an orchestra and steel band.

Outcomes

Heightened profile of local ensemble; enrichment and preservation of local art and culture

1991-2014

Supported Groups



Steel Bands

1993-2006: Assistance to unsponsored traditional steel bands, conventional community bands involved in Steel Band Competition. In 2007, NGC took a decision to concentrate support to steel bands in the single pan category and conventional bands which are based in fenceline or pipeline communities.

NGC eventually assumed title sponsorship of NGC Couva Joylanders, NGC La Brea Nightingales and NGC Steel Xplosion - all bands based in NGC's fenceline communities. Funding disbursed for purchase of equipment, participation in competitions, capacity building and music literacy training, as well as a pan manufacturing and tuning training programme.

Outcomes

Support of band development into viable commercial entities; stronger and more sustainable pan industry



Tassa Bands

Sponsorship of NGC Sweet Tassa and NGC Bao Simba Entertainers. Funding supports participation in events, band administration and capacity building training. NGC Sweet Tassa has also established a Tassa Academy.

Support was given in the past to Show Stopperz Tassa Group.

Outcomes

Support of band development into viable commercial entities; stronger and more sustainable tassa artform and surrounding industry

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NIHERST - National Science Centre (NSC)

Aims to advance the levels of scientific and technological literacy in both the children and adults of Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean, by presenting knowledge and experiences of Science and Technology in their most palatable forms. NGC supported its establishment in 1997 and patronised all of its major activities, including the popular SciTechKnoFest.

Outcomes

Support of national science curricula; stimulation of interest and achievement in technology and innovation



National Association of Athletics Administrations (NAAA)

Governing body for track and field in Trinidad and Tobago. NGC's sponsorship has supported the annual Championship Month of competition, training for coaches and clubs administrators as well as special projects such as the Youth Elite Programme.

Outcomes

Development of globally competitive track and field talent and industry; enhanced national profile in international athletics

**1997
-2015**

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94**

- PRESENT

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- PRESENT

Supported Organisations



The University of the West Indies (The UWI)

NGC has supported this tertiary level institution through sponsorship of the Eric Williams Memorial Collection, support of the Institute of Engineering, grants for BSc students in the Petroleum Geoscience programme, contributions to the University's Graduate and Research Fund, as well as its Development and Endowment Fund and sponsorship of several Conferences on the Economy. In 2012, NGC strengthened its commitment to investing in research through its sponsorship of The UWI Research Awards, Research Forum, Research Expo and a Chair in Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Most recently, the Company has contributed to the Trevor Boopsingh Energy Research Endowment and given support to The UWI's Collaborative COVID-19 Engineering and Manufacturing Initiative - a Ventilator Development Project.

Outcomes

Support of high-impact research and innovation; strengthened collaboration between academia, Government and private sector in the interest of national development

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Habitat for Humanity Trinidad and Tobago (HFHTT)

Organisation with a vision of helping to secure decent and affordable housing for impoverished families across the country. HFHTT works with vulnerable households on housing solutions, training initiatives, and disaster risk-reduction programmes. NGC has contributed through capital and sweat equity to numerous builds and home improvement projects.

Outcomes

Improved quality of life for families in need; more stable and sustainable communities

2005
-2018

Supported Organisations



2013
- PRESENT

Police Youth Clubs (PYCs) - Couva, Penal, Laventille Road, La Brea and Mayaro

Organisation established by the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service to provide young people with opportunities to study, socialise and take part in extra-curricular activities. NGC's support to PYCs in fenceline communities has funded developmental work, capacity building and social activities for club members. Most recently, NGC sponsored vocational skills training for members.

Outcomes

Creation of opportunities for young people to be productively engaged; support of efforts to reduce juvenile delinquency among disadvantaged youth



Deeds of Covenant with Non-Governmental Organisations

Through Deeds of Covenant, NGC has given support to several NGOs that cater to persons with special needs or provide other critical services to the community, including:

- The Adult Literacy Tutors Association (ALTA)
 - Dyslexia Association
 - Swaha Inc.
- Tobago Council for Handicapped Children
 - The Life Centre
- The National Centre for Persons with Disabilities

Outcomes

Better quality education and care for subsets of the national population with special needs

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Families in Action

Non-profit NGO dedicated to the upliftment and healing of families and individuals ravaged by drug addiction and social abuses through counselling and group support.

Outcomes

Promotion of healthy family life; strengthening of communities.

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1997
- PRESENT

Supported Organisations



1996
- PRESENT

Couva Children's Home and Crisis Nursery

Organisation which aims to provide safe and secure home environment for children who have been abused, abandoned or socially challenged.

NGC was instrumental in relocating the home from dilapidated premises on Railway Road in Couva to its present location in Camden, and has supported the home since.

Outcomes

Support for victims of abuse; creation of opportunities for disadvantaged youth to lead fulfilling lives

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School Games

Series of athletics competitions held for students of Primary Schools. They include the Track and Field Games in the Moruga Zone and in the St. Patrick and Caroni Education Districts, which NGC has been supporting for many years.

Outcomes

Early discovery and development of athletic talent

1995

- PRESENT

(initial year of support varied)

2002-2011

GASCO news Supported Festivals/Events

45TH
AT THE FOREFRONT OF Energy



CARIFTA Games

Annual athletics competition founded by the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA). The Games were first held in 1972 and consist of track and field events, including sprint races, hurdles, middle distance track events, jumping and throwing events, and relays.

NGC was a regional sponsor.

Outcomes

Development of regional track and field talent; enhanced international profile for regional athletes

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NGC Sanfest

Festival which pivots around visual, literary and performing arts, and is open to primary and secondary schools. NGC supports the festival's activities and promotions through capital investments as well as employee volunteerism.

Outcomes

Preservation of traditional artforms and artefacts of culture; cultivation of young artistic talent

2003

- PRESENT

2011

- PRESENT



Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival (ttff)

Celebrates films from and about the Caribbean and its diaspora, as well as from world cinema, through an annual festival and year-round screenings. NGC's investment has supported the festival, as well as training and networking for filmmaking professionals; international promotion of local media content through ttff marketing campaigns; and a Shooting Stars initiative for young filmmakers.

Outcomes

Development of local film industry; creation of opportunities for young filmmakers to be discovered and promoted; promotion of local films in international markets

Multiple periods of support over the festival's history

Supported Festivals/Events



NGC Bocas Lit Fest

The Caribbean's premier literary festival, which brings together writers and readers from Trinidad and Tobago and across the region. It consists of a week of readings, performances, workshops, discussions, film screenings and other events. NGC supports the festival's activities and promotions through capital investments, as well as employee volunteerism.

Outcomes

Enhanced standard of literacy; support for local and regional writers; development of local creative industries; greater presence and recognition of regional writers in international literary circles



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Special School Projects

Projects to address the special infrastructural and equipment needs of schools in fenceline communities. Over the years, NGC has facilitated requests for funding to purchase furniture and office equipment, execute minor infrastructural repairs or implement agricultural projects

Outcomes

Creation of optimal environments for teaching and learning

1997-2016

2018-2019

Supported Projects



IAMovement ReThinking Energy campaign

Campaign to educate the public around the need for more efficient energy use, through three-part video series and country-wide school tours, executed by NGO IAMovement. NGC supported video production and promotion, including an essay competition.

Outcomes

Heightened awareness about energy consumption practices and the need for change; greater engagement with young people around the topic of energy efficiency; support of national clean energy agenda

THE FUTURE OF CSR

Today, NGC is again evolving on the CSR front in line with global movements in the field. Corporate Sustainability is the phrase gaining traction. It captures the idea that corporate investments should move beyond donations and one-off contributions. They should instead focus on building capacity for tomorrow – investments today should generate rewards well into the future. Such investments tend to focus on education, empowerment, skills training, restoration ecology and generally building foundations upon which future generations can grow.

Many of NGC's sponsorships over the years have in fact met these criteria, but the Company is now making sustainability a more deliberate choice in its investments. It has already begun to recalibrate existing sponsorships to nurture longer-term benefits and is positioning itself behind new causes that align with the global sustainability agenda.

Whatever its future investments, there is no doubt that NGC will continue to build on its legacy of strong corporate citizenship.

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