



FZS Annual Report 2011 | Prospects for 2012

MAKING CONSERVATION COUNT 



FRANKFURT
ZOOLOGICAL
SOCIETY



PUBLISHED BY

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DEAR MEMBERS, SPONSORS, SUPPORTERS, PARTNERS AND FRIENDS,

We are very pleased to present to you the 2011 Annual Report of the Frankfurt Zoological Society of 1858 e.V. and our supporting “Help for Threatened Wildlife” Foundation. The Annual Report provides insight to our activities and a window onto the foundations of our organization. The financial statements of the Society and Foundation were, as in years previous, approved without qualification by the auditor selected by the membership and were scrutinized by the Society’s Board of Directors and the Trustees of the Foundation. As you will see in the following, we have taken great care to effectively invest the resources entrusted to us.



We see ourselves as the front line of nature conservation, doing practical work on the ground to preserve biodiversity and the world’s last wilderness areas. The sustainability of natural processes is always at the forefront of our thinking and planning. This means evaluating every project proposal as to its long-term viability. FZS projects that receive external funding, via government agencies, for instance, receive particular scrutiny. Such third-party-supported activities make up 50% of our current project expenditures. Or to look at it from another perspective, external grants allow us to double our own financial resources. Of course, this type of funding is generally for a limited time only and must be regularly renewed. Project decisions thus require calculating potential future expenditures from internal sources.

Our work is unthinkable without your wonderful support. Your donations, contributions, and bequests have been in the past, and will remain in the future, the foundation of the Frankfurt Zoological Society.

I would like to assure our many partners abroad and at home that the FZS’s financial accounts are in good order and that our conservation activities are up to the highest scientific standards. We look forward to a continuing partnership in preserving the world’s biodiversity.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Foundation Trustees, I would like to extend my thanks to our many members, donors, sponsors, and friends – we continue to count on your unwavering support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Gerhard Kittscher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gerhard Kittscher,
President of Frankfurt Zoological Society

FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY – STANDING FOR THE PROTECTION OF HABITATS AND SPECIES OVER THE PAST 50 YEARS

As I sit down to write this editorial, a sad news report is circulating around the world. The most famous and loneliest turtle in the world is dead. Lonesome George is gone and with him an entire species: *Chelonoidis abingdoni*.

Four of the original 15 species of the Galápagos tortoise had already been wiped out. George's death means that the fifth, known as the Pinta Island tortoise, is also gone forever.

Seafarers and pirates once held thousands of tortoises on board as living food. Later imported rats, dogs, and cats ate their eggs and young. Hundreds of thousands of goats transformed the volcanic green pastures upon which the tortoises depended into desert. It was also thought that human impact was to blame for the presumed eradication of tortoise on Pinta Island. Until 1972, with the unexpected discovery of George. The last of his kind. Sadly, a same-species partner for George was never found, and efforts to mate him with females from closely-related species either failed or did not produce viable eggs. He became famous as “Lonesome George” and gained the affections of millions of tourists, who came to see him face to face at the Charles Darwin Research Station and the national park.

It isn't often that the extinction of a species – the eradication of a species, to be more precise – is so visible and receives such attention on the global stage. According to estimates, human activity is the cause of the loss of 150 animal and plant species every day. Experts believe that four times more species exist than have been scientifically described – this means that we will never even get to know most of the species that we are losing to extinction. We are plundering the library of life without even looking at its books. What we are leaving behind for coming generations are empty spaces and increasingly fragile ecosystems.

Protecting habitats and species – this is what the Frankfurt Zoological Society has stood for since Bernhard Grzimek's call for “Help for Threatened Wildlife” more than 50 years ago. In order to critically assess our work and prepare ourselves for the challenges in a quickly changing world, we have subject ourselves to a rigorous strategic planning process. In 2011, we started work on a ten-year plan. As a consequence of this planning exercise, the FZS will in the future dedicate more resources to two central areas: preserving biodiversity and wilderness protection.

There is no debate about the importance of biodiversity – ecosystem diversity, species diversity and genetic diversity. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that was created to protect biodiversity was signed by 168 nations and designates areas with a high level of biodiversity, such as tropical forest and coral reefs, as particularly deserving of protection. The United Nations have resolved, as one of its primary tasks, to stop the loss of biodiversity. In fact, the UN identifies biodiversity conservation as one of its development goals for this century. Financial and economic crises, climate change, and the transformation of the energy economy, however, have thrust the topic of biodiversity out of the limelight. Thus, I think it is crucial to reflect once again on the need to preserve biodiversity. Isolated solutions are of only very limited use in a globally connected world with limited resources.

The public perception of the topic of wilderness is contradictory. In Central Europe, where there is little significant wilderness left, the topic is gaining in profile. Core zones in national parks, former military training grounds, abandoned industrial lands – such areas are increasingly being regarded as wilderness renewal sites where nature should be left alone. And the wolves – four-legged icons of the



wilderness – love it! Of course, we shouldn't forget that wolves are particularly capable of adapting to cultivated landscapes if left alone. It's the multitudes of wood-digesting mushrooms and insects, the birds that rely on hollow trees, and bats that need the old forests the most.

Where intact wilderness areas and natural processes still exist, there is enormous pressure to rob the landscape of its unspoiled nature. Humans have always shaped the landscape, it is argued, and we don't need national parks without settlement areas for people. What a short-sighted perspective – one that hardly glances back and refuses to look into the future! The majority of species and ecosystems are far older than the 200,000-year history of modern humans. And in terms of the future, this anti-wilderness thinking contradicts the basic principle of sustainability, which has become accepted by nearly all societies and governments. Sustainability means that future generations will not be limited in terms of the options available. Today we have already drastically transformed 60 percent of the earth, and this will affect the choices that can be made tomorrow. Wilderness is thus common property for the common good – particularly for coming generations. Finally, we need reference areas against which to measure and evaluate the impact of our actions and to make necessary accommodations. Wilderness is also good for the soul. There is no other way to explain the enormous increase in tourism in so many conservation areas and national parks.

Our strategy articulates a commitment to making a science-based and significant contribution to the preservation of biodiversity and wilderness. We are the ones working on the ground. We are in it for the long term and we're not afraid of taking on unusual challenges. The FZS is planning for moderate growth that will allow us to tackle the problems

ahead without sacrificing flexibility or our reputation. The special motivation and loyalty of our team to the FZS and its goals are core values that we do not want to dilute as we grow as an organization. While cooperation and partnerships are essential components of what we do, we do not see ourselves as a globally active campaign organization. Focusing on biodiversity and wilderness, the FZS positions itself as a driver of landscape-based conservation work in selected regions on four continents. This is a very particular niche, but one that we want to occupy as comprehensively, effectively, and efficiently as possible.

We are buying time. We are convinced that species-rich wilderness areas will only increase in value and will become more and more appreciated in the long term. In the meantime, we must protect wilderness areas from deforestation and settlement and from mining. And we must protect those who live there as well.

In reality, Lonesome George didn't die this past summer. His death and the death of his species began 200 years ago when the future of the tortoises of Pinta was taken from them. We shouldn't be robbing the creatures of our planet and our own descendants of their future, we should be preserving it. That's our commitment, and that's what you will be reading about in our 2011 Annual Report.

Dr Christof Schenck,
FZS Executive Director

DISTINCTIONS AND AWARDS 2011

At the beginning of February, the environmental foundation Fondation Yves Rocher recognized Eva Klebelsberg with the “Trophée de Femmes 2011.” Eva Klebelsberg, a biologist who works for the FZS in the saiga conservation project in Kazakhstan, won the € 5,000 second prize. Selecting from many submissions, a jury consisting of representatives from the Fondation Yves Rocher, the Institut de France, the women’s periodical “Für Sie,” and the publication “natur + kosmos” awarded three women the prize. Tobias Zick, editor of “natur + kosmos,” praised Klebelsberg’s enormous personal commitment to the protection of the saiga antelope, both in her work as project coordinator for the Frankfurt Zoological Society and beyond.

More than 60 doctoral dissertations were in the running for the “UNEP/CMS Thesis Award 2011.” The distinction,

In November, the committee responsible for awarding the Indianapolis Prize published the list of nominees for the 2012 competition, and the FZS was very pleased to see that Dr Markus Borner was among those who made it onto the list of 29 international scientists and conservation experts. Conferred by the Indianapolis Zoo in the US, the prize is the world’s most prestigious distinction in wildlife conservation. Dr Borner went on to make the short list of six finalists, which was announced in March 2012. Reaching the final round is a sensational achievement and deserved recognition of Dr Borner’s accomplishments and life’s work. Dr Markus Borner headed the FZS Africa Program for over 30 years. We have him to thank for creating a sound and stable basis for the long-term protection of the Serengeti ecosystem – in terms of qualified scientific data, conservation work, and park management. Another focus of his work



Eva Klebelsberg

which is awarded by the United Nation’s Environmental Programme UNEP and the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), recognizes young scientists conducting research on species that fall under the Convention. Among the “CMS Laureates” is Grant Hopcraft, who headed for many years the FZS’s GIS Office in the Serengeti and studies wildebeest migration in the Serengeti ecosystem. His thesis, “Ecological implications of food and predation risk for herbivores in the Serengeti,” contains a plethora of information about zebra migration in the Serengeti ecosystem.



Dr Grant Hopcraft

is rhino conservation, in particular creating links between isolated populations of the East African Black Rhino.

In addition to the aforementioned individual acknowledgements, the conservation ambassadors working at the Frankfurt Zoo were nominated for the 2011 Deutscher Engagementpreis, which recognizes volunteer work and projects. The conservation ambassador program is run jointly by the FZS and the Frankfurt Zoo.

FZS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



From left to right: Professor Dr Volker Mosbrugger, Alexandra Prinzessin von Hannover, Hans Joachim Suchan, Gerhard Kittscher, Professor Dr Manfred Niekisch, Renate von Metzler, Gerold Dieke, Dr Thomas Kantenwein

The FZS is an incorporated society and, as such, the Board is elected by the membership. Board members, who work in an honorary capacity, meet several times a year and supervise the general activities and development of the FZS. In addition, board members facilitate connections in terms

of political, social, and media relations and in this way play an important role in the success of our nature conservation work. The current Board was unanimously re-elected at the general meeting of the membership in September 2011.

Gerhard Kittscher (President)

Former Board Member, Frankfurter Sparkasse, retired
FZS Board Member since 1980, FZS President since 2001
Chair, Board of Trustees, Help for Threatened Wildlife Foundation

Professor Dr Manfred Niekisch (Vice President)

Director, Frankfurt Zoo, FZS Board Member since September 2002,
Member, Board of Trustees, Help for Threatened Wildlife Foundation

Professor Dr Dr h. c. Volker Mosbrugger

Director-General, Senckenberg Research Institute and Natural History Museum
FZS Board Member since September 2008

Renate von Metzler

Numerous volunteer activities, FZS Board Member since 2003

Hans Joachim Suchan

Managing Director, German Public Television 2 (Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen, ZDF)
FZS Board Member since 2002

Alexandra Prinzessin von Hannover

FZS Board Member since 1999
Member, Board of Trustees, Help for Threatened Wildlife Foundation

Gerold Dieke

President of the Regional Government, retired
FZS Board Member since September 2008

Dr Thomas Kantenwein

Lawyer, FZS Board Member since September 2008
Member, Board of Trustees, Help for Threatened Wildlife Foundation

STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

In order to take better advantage of our internal expertise, to improve internal communication, and to consult on the continuous strategic planning process, the FZS has established a Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is comprised of the project leaders in our large programs as well as the director and division heads. The function of this forum is to evaluate the development of the FZS's global nature conservation programs as well as our organizational structures and to make corresponding recommendations for changes. In addition, the Steering Committee formulates and reviews the FZS Nature Conservation Strategy 2020, which contains the principles that will continue to guide us in the coming years.

In November 2011, the Steering Committee invited a number of conservation experts from other organizations to a strategy workshop. The results of this meeting formed the basis for the FZS's new conservation approach. Participants in the workshop, which was held at the Johannesburg Monastery in Rheingau, spent two days discussing the future of the Frankfurt Zoological Society. Our organization has experienced strong growth in recent years. The level of professionalism has increased, and public awareness of the FZS's work has risen. In order to maintain this positive trend, structural and strategic adjustments are needed. The experiences of colleagues in other large nature conservation organizations – and their view of the FZS from the outside – were extremely useful for us in planning our further development.



MEMBERS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Front row, from left to right:

Florian Becker-Gitschel | Head of Finance
Dr Rob Williams | Program Manager Peru
Robert Muir | Head of Africa Program since 2012
Gerald Bigurube | Program Manager Africa/Tanzania
Dr Karen Laurensen | Program Manager Africa/Ethiopia

Back row, from left to right:

Dagmar Andres-Brümmer | Head of FZS Communications
Dr Markus Borner | Head of Africa Program until 2012
Dr Peter Pratje | Program Manager Bukit Tigapuluh Landscape Conservation Program
Dr Antje Müllner | Head of South America/Southeast Asia Program
Dr Christof Schenck | Executive Director
Michael Brombacher | Head of Europe Program
Wolfgang Fremuth | Teamleader Prespa Nationalpark, Biosphere Reserve
Hugo van Westhuizen | Project Leader Gonarezhou Conservation Project



PROJECTS IN AFRICA

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Virunga National Park Conservation Project VCP

Maiko National Park Conservation Project

Upemba National Park Conservation Project

ETHIOPIA

Afro-alpine Ecosystems Conservation Project AECP

Bale Mountains Conservation Project BMCP

Conservation in Ethiopia; Coordination

Community Afromontane Monitoring Project CAMP

TANZANIA

Serengeti National Park; Park Operations

Serengeti National Park; Garage and Vehicles

Serengeti National Park; GIS Center

Serengeti National Park; Rhino Repatriation Project SRRP

Serengeti Community Outreach Project

Rubondo National Park Support

Support for Pasiansi Ranger School

Maswa Game Reserve Support

Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute TAWIRI Support

Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Project

Conservation in the Mahale Ecosystem

ZAMBIA

North Luangwa Conservation Project NLCP

ZIMBABWE

Gonarezhou National Park Conservation Project GCP

TRANS-NATIONAL

Africa Regional Office ARO

ARO Aircraft

Conservation Research for East Africa's Threatened Ecosystems CREATE (Tanzania, Zambia)

Hunting for Sustainability in Africa HuSA (Tanzania, Ethiopia)

Bernhard Grzimek Stipend

PROJECTS IN EUROPE

ALBANIA

Management of Prespa National Park

BULGARIA

Balkan Chamois Conservation

Biodiversity Protection in the Balkan Mountains

Brown Bear Protection in Bulgaria

GERMANY

Biotope and Species Conservation in the Rhön Biosphere Reserve

Bat Protection in the Frankfurt Orchards

Wildlife Protection in Brandenburg; Brandenburg Natural Landscape Foundation

Protection of the European Wild Cat

Günzta Riverbed Restoration

Hohe Schrecke Beech Forest Conservation Project

KAZAKHSTAN

Altyn Dala Steppe Ecosystem and Saiga Conservation

UKRAINE

Wetlands Conservation in Ukrainian Polesie

TRANS-NATIONAL

Breeding & Reintroduction of Bearded Vultures in the Alps

Vulture Conservation in the Balkans

Osogovo Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Bulgarien/Mazedonien)

PROJECTS IN SOUTH AMERICA

BRAZIL

Reintroduction of Golden Lion Tamarins

CHILE

Protection of the Huemul at Nevados de Chillán Mountains

ECUADOR, GALÁPAGOS

Environmental Education

Protection of Giant Tortoises and Land Iguanas

Support of Charles Darwin Research Station

Conservation of Endemic Flora on Santiago and Floreana

PERU

Andes to Amazon Conservation Program

Protection of the Giant Otter

Capacity Building for Protected Area Staff

Technical Support for Protected Areas

Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Local Communities

PROJECTS IN ASIA

INDONESIA

Bukit Tigapuluh Landscape Conservation Program

Orangutan resettlement

Human-elephant conflict mitigation

Wildlife protection and ranger patrols

Ecosystem restoration concessions

Community development and environmental education

VIETNAM

Vietnam Primate Conservation Program

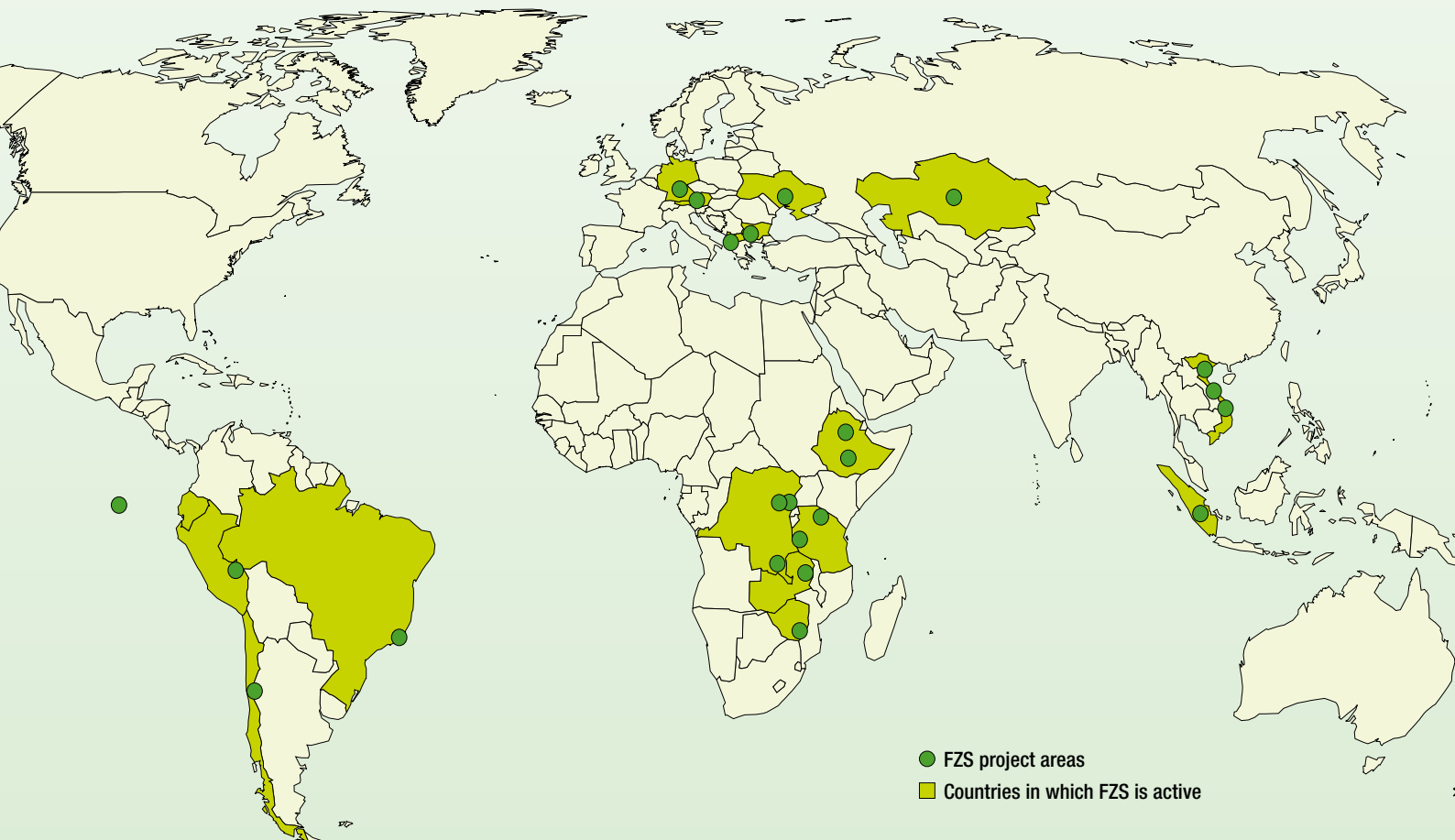
Delacour's langur conservation in Van Long Reserve and support for the Endangered Primate Rescue Centre

Forest and wildlife conservation in Kon Ka Kinh National Park

Resettlement of Hatinh langurs in Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park

SMALL PROJECTS

Small Project Grants South America & Southeast Asia



01

AFRICA

**A CHALLENGING YEAR –
ESPECIALLY FOR
THE SERENGETI**

By Dr Markus Borner

Today there are more animals living in the Serengeti than there were in the time of the pioneering conservationist Bernhard Grzimek. We are having more and more success in involving the population in the surrounding areas in the management of the ecosystem, and booming safari tourism not only finances the Serengeti National Park, but also supports a number of other less well-known parks. Tanzanians are proud of their world famous national park – a World Natural Heritage site. It would almost seem that 50 years after the ground-breaking documentary “Serengeti Shall Not Die” (Serengeti darf nicht sterben, 1959) we could sit back and enjoy one of the world’s relatively few conservation success stories – but not so fast! Suddenly, out of nowhere, in 2010 the Tanzanian government dusted off an old, long discarded plan, and without warning road construction machinery appeared on the borders of Serengeti National Park!

“We left nothing untried in the Serengeti.”

Overnight, the peaceful Serengeti was confronted with the greatest challenge since its creation as a national park sixty years ago. For the FZS – and certainly for me as well, just before handing over my duties as head of the FZS’s Africa Program to my young successor – it would become the greatest struggle in recent decades.

We all learned a great deal over the course of the past two years. Frustration with political narrow-mindedness alternated with a deep gratitude toward a world that demonstrated unexpected international solidarity and unleashed the



power of the media to come to the aid of the Serengeti. Sometimes all one could do was to shake one’s head at the short-term goals of local development organizations. On other days, I was nonplussed by the wisdom of a fisherman on Lake Victoria, who, although he had never even seen the Serengeti, was proud of it and wanted to

preserve the wildebeest for his grandchildren. It became clearer to us than ever during this time how important the Serengeti is – for the future and economic development of Tanzania, but also for all of us. For the Serengeti is an iconic natural heritage of global significance. It is an irreplaceable wilderness area of which our planet has few remaining.

But we also realized during the discussions about the road how small our world is becoming. Even in Africa, wilderness is becoming a luxury, and a rapidly growing population requires faster development if we really want to put an end to poverty. There can be no doubt that in the future – and particularly in Africa – there will be more and more conflicts between the need for development on the one hand and conservation on the other. As conservationists, we must not only be principled and brave, but pragmatic. We will have to find solutions that connect both sides.

We used all of the resources at our disposal in the Serengeti. For over a year we and countless others – scientists, conservation organizations, representatives of the media, politicians, and committed private individuals – did everything in our power to stop this road. Our focus was always on finding better alternatives and providing decision-makers the best information possible. Finally, the German government, which pledged to help explore alternative plans, played a crucial role in moving the decision-making process in a positive direction.

The turning point came at the 35th session in June 2011 of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee. At the meeting, Tanzania's minister of the environment, Ezekiel Maige, submitted to UNESCO a written report detailing the country's plans to build a road network in the Serengeti region. According to the plan, a paved road from the east would end in Loliondo and one from the West in Mugumu. The stretch through the park would remain unpaved. The fact that this park segment would remain under the control of TANAPA and would not be used for commercial traffic was a decisive breakthrough. Equally important was the fact that the road from the park border to Loliondo and Mugumu would also remain unpaved. In addition, the Tanzanian government for the first time publically acknowledged the construction of a southern route from Mugumu to Arusha that would circumvent Serengeti National Park and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. For us, this was a first and crucial step forward in finding an ecologically and environmentally sound alternative to the original plan.

That reason prevailed in the end also had to do with the facts of the economically more convincing alternative that we proposed – i.e. a southern route circumventing the park. This alternative route will better serve heavily populated regions, and far more people will have improved access to markets, schools, and hospitals. And the wildebeest migration will continue. This decision was undoubtedly one of the greatest successes in our many years working to preserve the Serengeti. It would not have been possible without the backing of the global public and the support of the German government, but also without Tanzania's democratic tolerance and openness.

In the future I will be observing events from a distance and take my leave with a mixture of happiness and sadness. My successor, Robert Muir, is already up to his ears in work. Until the southern bypass is actually built, the threat of a "Serengeti Highway" will remain. It can't be left to just Robert Muir and the FZS to ensure that international commitments are turned into deeds as quickly as possible – we all must be vigilant. We are also responsible for the Serengeti, because it is not just a safari destination, but our place of origin, a place where we can still be part of a whole. It's symbolizes the recognition that we must make room for the other wonderful creatures on our planet.

Dr Markus Borner began his FZS career in 1977 on Rubondo Island. He headed up our entire Africa Program up until his retirement in July 2012.

GERMAN AID FOR TANZANIA

In Germany, on the EU level, and in the United States, decision-makers took action to convince the Tanzanian government to pursue a more rational alternative to building a highway through the Serengeti. In mid-February 2011, German Development Minister Dirk Niebel intervened with the offer to help persuade Tanzania to choose an alternative route. Following a discussion with Frankfurt Zoological Society, he announced in a press conference what Germany could do to help the country to develop neglected rural areas in northern Tanzania while at the same time maintaining the integrity of Serengeti National Park.



Press conference at the Frankfurt Zoo. Development Minister Dirk Niebel (far right) with FZS Director Dr Christof Schenck, city councillor Prof. Dr Felix Semmelroth (cultural affairs), and Zoo Director Professor Dr Manfred Niekisch.

Niebel announced that Germany was prepared to finance a study to determine the feasibility of linking the existing road system to areas to the north of the Serengeti – without crossing the Serengeti itself. At the time, the minister also pledged that Germany would actively participate in a consortium of financiers to build the alternative route. During negotiations between the German and Tanzanian governments in April 2012, both countries reaffirmed their commitment to preserving the Serengeti as a world heritage site and international icon of nature conservation. Germany agreed to comprehensive support for sustainable economic development in the Serengeti region as well as – in conjunction with other contributors – support for the construction of a route that would bypass the national park.

CONSERVATION IN AFRICA

TANZANIA

Protecting the Serengeti Ecosystem

In addition to the national park, the surrounding protected areas are of special importance for the greater Serengeti eco-system. This is where the interests of settlers and farming must be harmonized with the protection of animal populations, rivers, savannahs, and forests.

- A visitor center has been erected in the Ikoma Game Reserve with trades and workers exclusively from the area. The building was constructed according to strict ecological guidelines, and builders worked extensively with natural materials. The facility uses solar energy and rainwater collection, making it unique in Tanzania.
- At the Makao Wildlife Management Area, the first user rights contract with an investor was signed; the agreement will create income for the local population. When animal populations and natural landscapes generate economic benefits, communities have a vested interest in preserving their resources.
- The *Community Conservation Banks* (CoCoBa) founded in previous years have now become established. In 2011, many of the multipliers trained in the context of the project began forming new microcredit groups in their home villages. The fact that the banks are spreading on their own is an encouraging measure of the success of the concept.
- Established over the course of the past few years, the *Serengeti Ecosystem Community Conservation Forum* (SECCF) is now operating largely independently. The forum brings the various users of the Serengeti ecosystem



The introduction in 2011 of an improved security concept for all of Serengeti National Park is the foundation of future rhino transports from South Africa to Tanzania.

together and promotes initiatives for environmentally sound and sustainable development.

TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA

Conservation Research for East Africa's Threatened Ecosystems

CREATE (*Conservation Research for East Africa's Threatened Ecosystems*) carries out conservation activities in the Serengeti and North Luangwa savannah ecosystems, but its most important project focus is research. Great emphasis is put on promoting young African researchers working on the relationship between poverty prevention and conservation.

- Following a comprehensive application and selection process, in 2011 seven students began working on their case studies in North Luangwa and in the Serengeti ecosystem.
- A large workshop in Arusha provided the opportunity for participating students, scientists, and partner organizations to exchange experiences and ideas. Participants agreed that the meeting would greatly benefit the future course of the project.

TANZANIA

Reintroducing Rhinos and Protecting the Rhino Population in the Serengeti

The project goal is to secure Serengeti National Park and protect black rhinos as one of the park's most important animal species. The existing rhino population in the Serengeti ecosystem will be strengthened by the reintroduction of black rhinos from South Africa. Our ambitious goal is to rebuild Africa's largest, most stable, and secure black rhino population.

- In 2011, the reintroduction enclosures (bomas) that had been previously used in 2010 were disassembled and set up in a new area. This area is more easily accessible and for security reasons has been equipped with a radio tower. This is where – following a brief acclimatization period – the next rhino group will be released and carefully monitored.

- Due to the alarming increase in rhino poaching in East Africa, we focussed our efforts on improving park protection in the Serengeti. Most important among them was the introduction of a significantly improved security concept for the park as a whole. The new concept was developed in 2011 and will be implemented in 2012 in cooperation with TANAPA. The successful implementation of the improved security measures is a precondition for additional rhino transports from South Africa to Tanzania. The transports had been postponed due to the deteriorating security situation.

- In September, 26-year-old "Benji" – one of the rhinos that had been reintroduced in 2010 – died a natural death. Just weeks before, an examination by Dr Peter Morkel had given the bull a clean bill of health. Benji's death is a serious loss for the small black rhino group, but a part of the natural dynamic of a rhino population living in the wild.

TANZANIA

Protecting the Mahale Ecosystem

The Mahale ecosystem, which encompasses Lake Tanganyika in western Tanzania, is characterized by a high level of biodiversity and a spectrum of habitats supporting important species. Key elephant migration routes also cross the region. The focus of the FZS project in the area lies in the creation of a sustainable land use plan and the establishment of community forest reserves near Mahale National Park. Harmonizing the development of rural areas with natural resource conservation is one of the primary challenges in the Mahale ecosystem, since the livelihood of Africa's rural population is existentially linked to the continent's natural riches. This makes sustainable development all the more important.

- In 2011, it was possible to further expand on the successful concept of *Community Conservation Banks* (CoCoBa). More and more villages of the Mahale ecosystem are forming such CoCoBa institutions, which, in conjunction with the FZS, are putting into practice environmentally sound business ideas in the areas of commerce, the trades, and animal husbandry.

- In conjunction with The Nature Conservancy and Pathfinder – two large American organizations – the FZS has been working intensively to develop a concept for a large-scale project for Mahale that will encompass not only classical resource protection, but sustainable agriculture and fishery as well as the improvement of health care for the local population. Given high rates of mortality among mothers and children – and the fact that the region boasts Tanzania’s highest birthrate – the focus of health care efforts will be better services for mothers and children and family planning.
- In December 2011, our project team in Buhingo organized a celebration to commemorate fifty years of Tanzanian independence. The presence of numerous representatives of the national park authority TANAPA, local politicians, and above all some 1500 people from surrounding villages, is a fine indication of the positive attitude of the local people towards the Mahale ecosystem and its chimpanzees.

ETHIOPIA AND TANZANIA

Sustainable Hunting in Africa

HUSA (*Hunting for Sustainability*), is a project dedicated to research into the socio-economic conditions of local hunting and poaching. The Serengeti ecosystem in Tanzania and the Omo region in Ethiopia are serving as case studies. This research will provide the foundation for the formulation of strategies for sustainable land and wildlife use in the savannah and highland habitats characterizing the two ecosystems.

- The collection and analysis of the scientific data in both countries was successfully completed in 2011. Researchers studied economic, cultural, and political aspects of “bush meat” hunting in western Serengeti, trophy hunting in Ethiopia, and illegal poaching in the southern Omo region.
- In 2011, a series of workshops were held with representatives of the relevant authorities with the goal of addressing problems related to legal and illegal hunting.

- The implementation of the workshop results in Ethiopia was a great success: the current revised legislation governing the revenue sharing from hunting bears the mark of our workshop and project activities.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Conservation in Virunga National Park

For decades, the FZS has played a major role in longterm conservation efforts in Virunga, one of the world’s most important biological treasures and home of the mountain gorilla. Although the management of the park has been taken over by the Africa Conservation Fund, we continue to support the park and the Congolese conservation authority *Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature* (ICCN). In addition to protecting the area and the gorillas, it is crucial to improve the situation of people living in close proximity to the park and to reduce conflicts. In the Tongo region on the border of the national park, we are working with Batwa Pygmies in particular.

- In Tongo, in the span of just a year, a group of chimpanzees was successfully habituated, i.e. accustomed to the presence of humans. This is an amazing achievement on the part of the habituation team that often had to work under extremely difficult circumstances. Observing chimpanzees living in the wild is an incredible experience and – if such tourism is properly managed and controlled – can generate enormous income for the villages. The Tongo chimpanzees have the potential to make ecotourism profitable and to create jobs.
- In the context of the World Bank project, which is being financed by the World Bank, seven new homes were built for ICCN rangers and their families.
- In collaboration with the Congolese group HuGo (*Human-Gorilla*), strategies were developed to avoid conflicts between wildlife and humans in heavily populated border areas of the park. For instance, a solar-powered electric fence will be installed between the forest inhabited by the gorillas and adjacent fields in order to prevent gorillas from plundering the fields. Extremely susceptible to human diseases, the gorillas are better off if they do not

have close contact with humans, who would otherwise have to drive them off their fields.

available. In East Congo, the security situation deteriorated to the extent that many activities had to be postponed.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Protecting Maiko National Park

Maiko National Park in East Congo is an extraordinary wilderness area that supports numerous rare and many endemic animal species. Due to the presence of Mai Mai Simba rebels, the area remained nearly untouched for decades. In the meantime, pressure on the park's natural resources is increasing dramatically, requiring a considerable investment in park protection. The objectives of the project are to protect the wilderness in Maiko National Park, to facilitate the voluntary reintegration of the rebels into civil society, and to improve the livelihood of the local population. Through the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development the German government is making an important contribution to the protection of Maiko National Park.

- Despite difficult conditions on site, the FZS project team was able to erect a training camp for rangers in Tingi-Tingi. Having gained the trust of Simba rebels, we started ranger and tracker training for the first Simbas. The first Simba rangers have already been put to work by the Congolese conservation authority ICCN and are serving as ambassadors for the Simbas still living in isolation in the park.
- The FZS is working as a mediator in negotiations between the Congolese military, provincial government, UN units, ICCN and Simbas to reintegrate the rebels into civil society.
- At the beginning of the year it was for the first time possible for the FZS to conduct joint patrols with the ICCN.
- Months in advance of the elections at the end of 2011, obstacles to our conservation work in the park began to materialize. A number of roads were too unsafe to travel, government workers could not be reached, goods were un-

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Conservation in Upemba National Park

Conditions in Upemba National Park have deteriorated in an alarming way over the course of the past few decades. The park administration and ranger units continued to scale back their work as the war persisted, park buildings fell into disrepair, corruption and poaching on the part of park personnel became commonplace. Because the park was not being adequately protected, all of the populations of large wildlife collapsed and a number of species disappeared completely from Upemba. Despite all of this, with its magnificent landscapes and valuable wetlands, Upemba National Park remains one of the most important wilderness areas in the country. Thanks to the EU-financed project, the FZS – in conjunction with the Congolese conservation authority *Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature* (ICCN) – is dedicating itself to rebuilding Upemba National Park.

- In 2011, we began building or repairing the buildings, bridges, and roads that are required to secure the park. A number of the buildings are already being used, although work will not be completed until mid-2012. Since this isolated area is difficult to access during the rainy season, construction and renovation plans were repeatedly delayed.
- A seemingly unspectacular but nonetheless major step was the establishment of a grocery store for rangers and their families. This saves them a 12 kilometre journey on foot to the next village. More importantly, it means that the rangers will no longer be dependent on poaching for food. We also established a small medical station and supported a primary school.
- These improvements in living conditions have already resulted in a dramatic reduction in illegal hunting.

ZAMBIA**Protecting North Luangwa National Park**

After the successful resettlement of black rhinos (2003-2010), the focus is now on strengthening the rhino population and protecting the animals from poaching, which is increasing everywhere. The FZS is also developing in conjunction with communities living outside the park, a land use system that will enable the ecologically sustainable exploitation of natural resources (wildlife, forest, medicinal herbs).

- A highlight last year was the birth of three rhino calves. In all three cases the mothers were among the group of animals resettled between 2006 and 2008. Up to this point, only rhino cows from the 2003 group had produced young.
- Tragically, toward the end of the dry season, six rhinos died in rapid succession – a terrible blow for this young population that is just establishing itself. Immediately following the deaths of the rhinos, the FZS convened a group of internal and external rhino experts to study the fatalities. The specialists determined the cause of death in all cases to be an unusual shortage of browse and the very difficult living conditions during the dry season. This extreme environmental stress was exacerbated by fighting among the bulls and the resulting injuries proved to be too much for the weakened animals. The animals were living in a fenced area within the park and it seems that the scarcity of food and stress compounded each other. The Zambia Wildlife Authority ZAWA had opted for fencing in the rhinos to make monitoring easier – this despite the fact that the FZS had been continuously urging that the animals be allowed to move freely throughout the park. On the basis of the new studies, parts of the fence have been removed.
- In response to escalating elephant and rhino poaching in all of southern Africa, the FZS is investing in better security management in all of our affected project areas. In North Luangwa, additional ranger units were trained and outfitted to counter the increase in illegal hunting.

ETHIOPIA**Protecting the Afro-Alpine Ecosystem**

Ethiopia's afro-alpine ecosystem is unique due above all to its extraordinarily high level of endemic animal and plant species. Yet continuous population growth, deforestation, and unsustainable farming practices pose a mounting threat for the undisturbed highland landscapes as well as the largely relatively small protected areas. The FZS's conservation program in Ethiopia is concentrated on Bale Mountains National Park and Simien Mountains National Park as well as on the Guassa-Menz and Abune Yosef Community Conservation Areas.

- The control system that regulates the exploitation of natural resources on communal lands within or on the borders of conservation areas is proving effective. In Bale and Guassa, a number of communities are already working within the system, which was created and is being implemented by villagers. The FZS is sponsoring and supporting this process on all levels.
- The FZS drafted a piece of legislation for the Guassa Community Conservation Area and submitted it to the regional parliament for approval.
- The FZS is helping communities in Guassa-Menz and the population surrounding Bale Mountains National Park to make better, more sustainable use of their natural resources. Small workshops for handicrafts with natural materials have been established, for example, as well as a functioning distribution network. Woven goods and baskets from Guassa-Menz and Bale can even be found in the capital Addis Abeba.
- Additional community scouts were trained in Abune-Yoseph.

ETHIOPIA

Conservation in the Bale Mountains

Bale Mountains National Park in Ethiopia's Oromia region is the largest, still intact afro-alpine area and the home of the rare Ethiopian wolf. This highland conservation area is also extremely important for the people living in the dry Somali lowlands. The Bale Mountains are the source of two major rivers that provide water to more than 12 million people in the plains.

- Great progress has been made working together with people living on the border of the National Park. Several communities have signed contracts with the district government that give them the right to independently manage and use the forests on their communal land. Our intense, long term commitment is paying off in broad support and independent initiatives among the population.
- Over the course of 2011 the Bale project team invested considerable time in difficult negotiations with government representatives regarding the official recognition of the precise borders of Bale Mountains National Park, which had up to that point had yet to be charted. In early 2012 the exact borders were officially recognized, representing an important milestone in securing this extraordinary area for the long term.
- As is the case in other project areas, in the Bale Mountains the FZS is joining forces with partner organizations in the health, agricultural, and health sectors. We are developing and implementing holistic concepts for the region designed to promote sustainable and environmentally sound economic development in this rural area. This is a crucial undertaking in light of strong population growth in the region.

ZIMBABWE

Conservation in Gonarezhou National Park

In recent years, Zimbabwe has experienced difficult political and economic conditions, and, as a consequence, all of the conservation areas in the country are in crisis. In these problematic times, the FZS has supported the protection of Gonarezhou National Park, an extraordinarily diverse wilderness area and home to an important elephant population. Project activities include the construction of access roads and ranger accommodations, training and equipment for rangers, and ecological studies of key environmental parameters, such as wildlife populations, vegetation, and water quality.

- In 2011 the FZS finally achieved official recognition as a non-government organization in Zimbabwe. The registration process dragged on for over three years, complicating our work on the ground. At long last we are now able to concentrate all of our efforts on the work at hand and have been able to import equipment into the country: machinery to build and maintain park infrastructure as well as patrol vehicles and ranger gear.
- In August 2011, 200 guests, including government officials, representatives of ZPWMA (*Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority*), local villagers, and FZS staff, were on hand to officially inaugurate our project in Gonarezhou.
- Additional ranger units were trained and equipped to combat growing elephant poaching.
- In 2011, a joint forum was established in Zimbabwe and Mozambique. It is designed to improved cross-border cooperation in wildlife and resource conservation. We are particularly concerned about the area bordering the park on the Zimbabwe side of the park, since it does not have official protected status – this despite the fact that it lies within the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area. It is crucial that conservation efforts in the area be coordinated, and open dialogue in the context of the forum is an important first step in this direction.



Top: Protecting Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of Congo) and the mountain gorillas living there has become increasingly difficult since the end of 2011. It was particularly difficult through the first half of 2012 due to armed conflicts in the region.

Center: At long last, the official inauguration in summer 2011 of the project to protect Gonarezhou National Park (Zimbabwe) has made it possible for us to deliver important equipment for expanding and maintaining the park infrastructure.

Bottom: Upemba National Park (Democratic Republic of Congo) is still one of the country's most important wilderness areas, but its infrastructure and management are in disarray. The populations of all of the large wildlife species have been decimated – and in some cases wiped out – by poachers. In the context of the Upemba protection project, park rangers receive support, equipment, and training.

“WE WANT TO ENSURE THAT ALL RHINO SPECIES SURVIVE IN THEIR NATURAL HABITATS.”

The increase in rhino poaching in Africa was one of the FZS’s major concerns in 2011. Our focus is on practical rhino protection on the ground. But we also have to be concerned with finding a way forward for an international solution to poaching.

Questions for Hugo van der Westhuizen, project leader for the Gonarezouh Conservation Project in Zimbabwe. He is a member of the FZS’s Steering Committee and coordinates our rhino task force.

Mister van der Westhuizen, the FZS approach to dealing with conservation challenges is not geared towards single species but rather towards the well being of the larger ecosystems. Does that mean that FZS is not concerned about those species?

Quite the contrary. rhinos and gorillas are extremely close to our hearts and it is in fact the well being of these species within their natural environment that is telling us whether we are succeeding in our conservation mission or not.

Rhino poaching is at an all time high with 448 rhinos poached in 2011 in South Africa alone, and at the current rate of poaching the total for 2012 may well exceed that number. There is an ongoing global debate on how to best address this crisis. Where does FZS stand in this debate?

There will not be a single solution to the rhino crisis. This is a problem with deep underlying root causes which ranges from poverty and short term financial gains in the range states, to traditional beliefs and large and growing populations of uninformed users in consumer countries, driven and operated by the greed of criminal syndicates.

Probably the biggest debate at the moment in rhino conservation is whether there should be a legal trade of rhino horn or not. The argument in favour of trade is that rhino horn can be harvested from live animals and because horn grows back at a rate of about 5 cm per year in some rhino species it could be utilised as a renewable resource. Proceeds from the selling of horn could then be ploughed back into conservation of these species. It is also argued that creating a legal, regulated market will lower the price of horn and therefore reduce incentive to obtain or deal in illegal killing of rhino.

This rationale is however mainly driven from a southern white rhino perspective, and especially by South African private landowners who have a vested commercial interest. A legal trade in horn may well promote more southern white rhino in South Africa, but may have an opposite effect on black rhino numbers in Zambia or Sumatran rhinos in Indonesia. A trade will also not promote the conservation of large wild areas, a core concept of FZS, as it will be more effective to look after rhinos in smaller zoo like areas where the animals can be “farmed” with security, and



Hugo van der Westhuizen, project leader Gonarezhou Conservation Project.

handling of the animals for harvesting horn much cheaper than on larger areas. Therefore although the ‚farming‘ scenario will probably increase the number of white rhinos specifically, it will not mean that their habitats and ecosystems are better protected or that populations in the wild have a better chance of survival. There has been little mention of how the money generated by the private rhino trade will be ploughed back into conservation, especially of the large, costly but vital national protected areas aimed at conserving entire ecosystems.

So where does this leave FZS in formulating a viewpoint about where we stand with regards the way forward for rhino conservation?

Our vision clearly leads us to support actions that lead to a world where all 5 rhino species live in viable, free-ranging populations in their natural habitat, and where a decision on the management of one of these species should not negatively affect any of the other species. Taking into account the balance of the information currently at hand, legalised trade at this stage is not part of our portfolio when considering the options available to us for securing

rhinos. We need to focus even more strongly on increasing the capacity and accountability of park management authorities to protect the rhinos and other species in their care, whilst supporting campaigns and actions that inform consumer markets in the East with regards to the impact of their actions on rhino numbers in the range states, instead of supporting a growth in the market of wild animal products in these countries. Only by following this line of action will we stay true to our mandate of ensuring that rhinos and other wildlife continue to exist within viable ecosystems for the generations to come.

02

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

**A NEW FOCUS ON
WILDERNESS**

“Less is more: strategic focus and fewer projects.”

By Michael Brombacher



In Spring 2011, we began the process of consolidating and strategically realigning our European division. There have been two important developments. For one, we have brought the European program into line with the FZS's overarching strategic focus, both conceptually and structurally. Secondly, we will in the future concentrate on significantly fewer projects in our new areas of concentration.

The FZS's conservation efforts are dedicated to the protection of large, for the most part untouched wilderness areas that boast a high level of biological diversity. Due to the extent to which humans have shaped the landscape and high population density, it is challenging to pursue this strategy in Europe, but it is not impossible. Initial changes in existing projects last year reflect this approach. We have committed to projects in Rumania's Carpathian Mountains, the virgin forest of Bialowiesza in Belarus and in the Polessie region. With its extensive floodplains, forests, raised bogs and fen mires, the Polesie, which is located at the confluence of Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine, is arguably Europe's largest wilderness area. In Germany, we will in the coming years invest further in forest wilderness, with a focus on expanding our existing projects in Brandenburg (support for Brandenburg Natural Landscape Foundation) and Thüringen (Hohe Schrecke).

Because we will be concentrating on significantly fewer projects in Europe in the future, the FZS head office in Frankfurt will be able to more efficiently and effectively manage projects. Projects that we have been funding for decades, but have the potential to achieve financial independence and lie outside our new strategic concept, will gradually and carefully be phased out of our project program. This will impact, for instance, our support of orchard conservation, vulture protection in Europe, and our projects in the Rhön region (Wildcat and river rehabilitation). In the coming years, additional

projects, like bear conservation in Bulgaria and research on Wildcat and their habitat between the Harz and Kyffhäuser, will also be affected. This focus will allow the FZS to better address the enormous challenges facing the conservation of important natural landscapes – particularly ancient forests in Germany and Europe.

Despite so many difficulties, we made progress on a number of fronts last year. We are proud of these accomplishments, which confirm that we are on the right path. Thanks to the incredible commitment of project leader Wolfgang Fremuth, Albania's Prespa National Park is becoming a model national park in the Balkans.

The Kazakh government is poised to create huge new conservation areas and to expand existing protected areas in the country's steppe and semi-desert regions (approximately 900,000 hectares). At the same time, the population of saiga antelope continues to increase. It appears that the saiga, which were threatened by extinction just a few years ago, have made the turnaround.

We are also very pleased to report that last year the first wolf pups were observed at Lieberose, a former military site that is owned by the Brandenburg Natural Landscape Foundation (Stiftung Naturlandschaften Brandenburg, SNB) and was co-founded by the Frankfurt Zoological Society. This positive development is a clear indication that we are on the right track with our new strategic approach in Europe, which is based on the creation and preservation of large wilderness areas. Wild animals require above all suitable, diversely structured, and intact habitats.

Michael Brombacher has been heading up the FZS Europe Department since 2011.

CONSERVATION IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

EUROPE

Success in Vulture Conservation

It's been 26 years since the first bearded vultures were resettled in Rauriser Valley in Hohe Tauern National Park in Austria. At that point, the species had been completely wiped out in the Alps. Since then, the population of Europe's rarest vulture has continued to increase. 179 birds were released in 2011, 15 breeding pairs have formed, and 82 juveniles have been born in the wild. The new alpine population is estimated at approximately 170 individuals. In 2011, preparations began to select suitable release sites in the French massif central, with the first bearded vultures scheduled for resettlement in 2012. This will create a connection between the existing natural populations in the Spanish and French Pyrenees and foster genetic exchange between the two groups.

The griffon vulture, too, is reconquering its old habitat. Last year, the number of resettled birds in the Bulgarian Balkan Mountains increased to 60 individuals. 50 additional birds are awaiting release in reintroduction aviaries Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park, Sinete Kamani Nature Park, Central Balkan National Park, and Kotel Nature Reserve. In the coming year, the last group of Griffon Vultures from Spain and France will be brought to Bulgaria. Our project partner, GreenBalkans, is now hoping that the first young will soon be hatched in the Balkans. In order to keep the released birds in the area, feeding stations will be set up in the Balkan Mountains, but this is only for the start, since there is an abundance of deer, and Balkan Chamois in the conservation areas. Thanks to the positive development of the project, it has already been possible to conduct guided tours to the vulture observation stations in Sinete Kamani National Park. There are plans to extend next year similar tourist activities to the other conservation areas.

The project is being supported by the *Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU)* and the LIFE+ Program of the European Union.

KAZAKHSTAN

New Conservation Areas in the Steppe Established

Important progress was made in 2011 in the Altyn Dala Project towards developing large conservation areas in the steppe and semi-desert region of central Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan's highest conservation authority approved a recommendation formulated by the FZS team to establish approximately 900,000 hectares of new conservation areas in the Altyn Dala region in central Kazakhstan. For comparison: the largest land-based national park in Germany – Bayerischer Wald National Park – spans 25,000 hectares. The conservation areas are to be created by mid-2012 and are a direct product of the FZS-sponsored Altyn Dala Project.

It is encouraging to see that the saiga population in the project area continues to recover from its dramatic decline in the 1990s. As was the case in 2010, last year, aerial saiga counts, which were carried out in conjunction with experts from Serengeti and represent a reliable data set for the saiga, recorded an increase in population. Outside the project area, a separate saiga population in the western part of the country suffered an epidemic comparable to 2010 that resulted in hundreds of dead saigas. The scientific studies initiated by the FZS have helped identify the cause of the mass deaths. It was discovered that the animals had poisoned themselves after gorging on protein rich plants. Under certain climatic conditions, the forage plants quickly overgrow fallow fields, providing an overabundance of food. Thanks to these studies, it will be possible to formulate new conservation strategies to prevent such widespread deaths.

BULGARIA

New Science on Brown Bears

Bulgaria's copious mountains – including the Balkan, Rhodope, Rila, and Pirin ranges – provide an ideal habitat for bear, wolf, and lynx.

Yet many of these species are threatened by human impacts, such as population pressure, tourism, illegal poaching, and roads that cut through animal habitat. In order to

plan effective protection measures, such as conservation areas and wildlife crossings, scientific studies to determine population size, migration corridors, and genetic variability are essential. Given the need for such data, the staff of our project partner, Balkani Wildlife, has over the past two years been collecting hair and scat samples from Bulgarian bears. The samples are being analysed in the context of a doctoral thesis by the Department of Wildlife Genetics at the Senckenberg Research Institute in Gelnhausen, Germany. When the project is completed in 2013, the results of the analyses will help inform a conservation strategy for brown bears in Bulgaria. First results of the genetic analysis of 258 samples were available in 2011:

- As compared to other European brown bear populations that have been studied, the Bulgarian bears demonstrate a high level of genetic variability.
- For the first time, it has been demonstrated that in Bulgaria eastern and western brown bear lines meet.
- The study determined that a migration corridor exists between the Rhodope and Balkan Mountains.

BULGARIA AND MACEDONIA

Cross-Border Osogovo Conservation Area Encounters Obstacles

This project aims to create a conservation area system on the Macedonian and Bulgarian side of the Osogovo Mountains.

The planning work conducted during the first project phase (2006-2011) represents the foundation for a sound and detailed conservation area system in both countries that will fulfil the requirements for approval as a biosphere reserve under UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB). Regrettably, this project has met with yet unresolved problems on the Bulgarian side. In Bulgaria, biosphere reserves have historically been small, strictly controlled conservation areas and as such anchored in national law. This is currently making it impossible to implement UNESCO's conservation approach. In order to begin the process nonetheless, since 2011 work has been underway to prepare the application of Strandja Nature Park in Macedonia for

UNESCO biosphere reserve status. This will hopefully pave the way for the Bulgarian side.

ALBANIA

Prespa National Park Progresses

Albania's Prespa National Park is making great strides forward. Funded by the *Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau*, KfW, a German development bank group underwritten by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (*Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung, BMZ*), the project is dedicated to outfitting and developing the park. 2011 milestones:

- completion of work on the main building
- purchase of important equipment, such as boats and vehicles
- set-up of information boards and border signs
- rangers outfitted with matching uniforms
- design of a new logo for the park

A number of scientific studies were conducted last year to document the composition and condition of the park's fauna and flora. An initial survey of breeding birds registered 132 species of breeding birds – a number that represents approximately half of the breeding birds in all of Germany. Among the identified birds was a colony of Eurasian crag martin on a small island. This is apparently the only large colony of Eurasian crag martin in the Balkan region. In addition, almost all European species of heron were observed on the Albanian side of the Prespa Lakes, as were first records of endemic plants. Since 2011, 20 camera traps have been used to document the occurrence of large mammals. Revealing more poachers than wildlife, the first images indicated a high level of illegal hunting in the national park, but wolves, badgers, fox, and deer were also captured by the cameras. Fresh tracks and scat also indicate the presence of bear; to date it has not been possible to find evidence of lynx within the borders of Prespa National

Park. With the help of this reference data, in the future we will be able to measure the effectiveness of conservation measures during specific time intervals.

Links to neighboring national parks in Macedonia and Greece were also strengthened and expanded. The objective is to create a transboundary biosphere reserve. But a number of bureaucratic hurdles must first be overcome if this endeavor is to succeed. Discussions with UNESCO have already been initiated and the environmental ministries in Albania and Macedonia have approved a strategy paper on the undertaking, which will be implemented in the coming years.

GERMANY

Wildcat in Our Cultivated Landscape

Due to their reclusive and secretive way of life in large forest areas, we are still not very well informed about the ecology and biology of the European wildcat. There is still a lot of research to be done on the cultural landscape as habitat for the cats, as well as on migration corridors between the known areas of wildcat distribution, such as the Eifel, Harz, and Spessart regions.

For two years, Saskia Jerosch and Malte Götz of Dresden's *Technische Universität* have been studying the behavior of the animals in the cultivated landscapes between Südharz and Kyffhäuser. The cats are being fitted with transmitters in order to determine their movement patterns. The first analysis of transmitter data is producing interesting results. Whereas the European wildcat has been considered forest-bound, it appears that they can also use open landscapes as long term habitat. Because they provide cover and hiding places for these shy animals, islands of forest and hedges, as well as broad borders along fields, paths, and waterways, are extremely important for the cats.

Supported by the *Allianz Umweltstiftung*, our second European Cat project, which is located in the Rhön Bios-

phere Reserve, also indicates that the animals can survive in cultivated landscapes that provide sufficient refuge. Here, our partner, RhönNatur e.V., is working with reserve authorities to protect the cats and their habitat. Studies of the wildcat population continued in 2011, resulting in the identification of 33 individuals. In order to obtain detailed information about their origins, movement, and obstacles to mobility, data from previously identified animals in the Rhön region were analyzed by wildlife geneticists at Senckenberg Research Institute in Gelnhausen. The researchers are also developing a habitat model that is designed to help identify important wildcat corridors for the Rhön. In a number of areas of the Rhön, so-called habitat enhancement measures have been carried out. These include the creation of hiding places and forest borders intended to create optimal transition zones for the cats as they move between forest areas and open fields. In addition, forest areas have been purchased and permanently taken out of production as additional wildcat habitat.

Top: Genetic analysis in the context of our project in Bulgaria has led to new discoveries about brown bears that will help us to protect them (left). Excellent progress is being made in the creation of Prespa National Park in Albania (right).

Center: Thanks to project initiatives, 900,000 hectares of steppe landscape in the Altyn Dala region in central Kazakhstan are poised to become a conservation area – an enormous step forward in protecting saiga antelopes.

Bottom: The first bearded vultures were resettled in the Alps 26 years ago. Today, the new alpine vulture population is estimated at about 170 birds.



“STILL ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT IN WILDLIFE PROTECTION.”

In Germany, the FZS will in the future be focussing more on preserving and creating forest wilderness, i.e. areas in which nature can develop undisturbed. One of the places in Germany where the FZS is committed to promoting wilderness is Lieberose, which, in addition to other former military training grounds, is owned by the Brandenburg Natural Landscape Foundation (Stiftung Naturlandschaften Brandenburg, SNB).

Questions for Dr Heiko Schumacher, SNB project leader at Lieberose.

Dr Schumacher, in 2011 wolf pups were born for the first time at Lieberose. Why is this exciting news for your project?

When an animal species that was eradicated long ago begins to reconquer lost terrain, that's always special news. This is particularly true for the wolf, because we are at once fascinated and frightened or awed by these animals. Wild wolves always cause a stir. We are very pleased that the first young Lieberose wolves were born on our project site. Wolves don't actually need wilderness. But they require large, intact territories that provide a sufficient nutritional basis. The latter is definitely present on our foundation's land at Lieberose, where we have, among other things, dramatically reduced hunting.

Several wolf packs already inhabit land belonging to the foundation at Lieberose. How do you expect other populations of wild animals, such as wildcat or lynx, to develop in Germany?

Happily, in recent years the populations of these species have been developing well. Many individual projects have contributed to this positive trend. Still, there is plenty to be

done. Creating and preserving appropriate and diversely structured habitats takes priority over resettlement. Reintroduction always requires an enormous dedication of resources and success is never certain. A lack of public support can also be an issue.

The FZS plans to focus more closely on forest wilderness in Germany. What is your take on this new strategy?

I think this that the FZS has taken a very good decision to consolidate its efforts instead of losing focus with too many projects. This will allow the FZS to apply its full resources to the most important issues.

Forest conservation is definitely one of those topics. Forests are currently under enormous pressure. One of the reasons for this is the great domestic and international demand for wood as a valuable natural resource. But the radical change in Germany's energy policy has also led to the construction of wind and solar energy facilities in forest areas as well as increased construction of wood-based heating and power stations. The latter plants can no longer



Dr Heiko Schumacher, project leader for the Brandenburg Natural Landscape Foundation.

be serviced with wood scraps alone. In 2020, we there will likely be a shortfall in Germany of 30 million cubic metres of wood.

One of the things that we can do to respond to the increasing demand for wood is to create and expand wilderness areas. Places where nature can just be nature for the long term and not be sacrificed for short-term profit. There are numerous arguments for such an approach, including not just species protection, but ethical, aesthetic, and scientific considerations. Regional economics and tourism are also factors. A whole spectrum of organisms relies on old forest and trees: tree mushrooms, for example. And, of course, many insect species, such as specialized beetles, or birds like white-backed woodpecker.

What do you have planned next at Lieberose?

We want to achieve new milestones in both nature conservation and providing nature experiences. Over the course of the next three years, we will be removing pine trees in a number of sites at Lieberose in order to increase biodiver-

sity in the somewhat monotone forests. This will also have a positive impact on the hydrologic balance. At the end of this period, we will also have completed our wilderness facilitation work on the valuable but partially degraded fen mire areas. This preparatory work includes filling in drainage ditches and the like. At the border of the foundation land, we will also introduce carefully managed nature experiences, such as paths that will allow hikers to get an impression of our large-scale wilderness development efforts.

03

SOUTHEAST ASIA

**NATURE CONSERVATION
IN THE SHADOW OF
CLIMATE PROTECTION**



By Dr Antje Müllner

Tropical Southeast Asia is comprised of an abundance of islands, peninsulas, and small archipelagos. Once completely covered in rainforest, the region is extremely rich in animal and plant species. Many occur only on a single island or mountain range, like Borneo's proboscis monkey or the Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush in the highlands of central Vietnam.



“The growing use of bio-fuels in Europe has led to huge, industrial oil palm plantations all around Bukit Tigapuluh on Sumatra. Tiger, elephant, orangutan habitat was sacrificed in order to create these plantations.”

Yet today, Southeast Asia is also characterized by high population density. The region's volcanic-ash soils and rich alluvial lands produced copious harvests and supported many people. The proximity of the ocean nearly every-

where seemed to promise a never-ending supply of fish and other fruits of the sea. In the meantime, unbridled growth has taken its toll on the environment: the rainforests have been cleared on a large scale and the remaining forests are like islands in an endless sea of rice fields and palm oil plantations. Coral reefs have been destroyed, fishing grounds depleted. If the exploitation of nature continues at this rate, not only will Southeast Asia's extraordinary biodiversity be at risk, but the basis of life for many people.

Despite this troubling situation, nature conservation has been in the shadow of climate protection, which is also competing for the public's attention. Whereas it is often difficult to recognize directly functional breakdowns in an ecosystem, increasing examples of spectacular and extreme weather events are sensitizing the public to climate change. Paradoxically, the conversion of natural forests is being promoted in the name of climate protection. For example, the growing use of biofuels in Europe has led to huge, industrial oil palm plantations all around Bukit Tigapuluh on Sumatra. Tiger, elephant, orangutan habitat was sacrificed in order to create these plantations.

The FZS's commitment in Southeast Asia is relatively modest as compared to the other major regions, like Africa, but no less important. Currently, the FZS is focussing on the consolidation and expansion of our two existing projects in Indonesia and Vietnam.

Dr Antje Müllner heads the FZS Department for South America and Southeast Asia.

CONSERVATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

INDONESIA

150 Orang-Utans in Bukit Tigapuluh

The goal of the FZS's Bukit Tigapuluh Program is to preserve the last remaining lowland rainforest in Central Sumatra – a habitat that supports large mammals such as orangutans, elephants, and tigers – and to establish a new orangutan population.

Whereas the core zone of the Bukit Tigapuluh forest is well protected as a national park, it is disappointing to see that the remaining natural forest in the buffer zone continued to shrink in 2011. The forest protection services in the districts were not able to prevent illegal logging or the creation of new fields and oil palm plantations. Thus the FZS's plans to lease forest as conservation concessions in the buffer zone appear to be the only option in combating the illegal conversion of forest to agriculture and reforesting the areas. In conjunction with Indonesian partner organizations, in 2011 we founded the non-profit company *Alam Bukit Tigapuluh* and submitted an application for so-called Ecosystem Restoration Concessions. As of June 2012, we had not received a response.

Our work to establish a new orangutan population from confiscated animals continues. We continue to train and release the animals and monitor them regularly in the forest. There were 14 new arrivals at the two orangutan stations in 2011, raising the total number of animals in Bukit Tigapuluh to 150. The use of transmitter implants, which began in late 2010, has proven successful, allowing us to locate the animals at a greater distance. Last year, another ten orangutans were fitted with implants, and in the future all animals scheduled for release into the wild are to receive the transmitters. Munich's Tierpark Hellabrunn has played a decisive role in financing this technology.

The FZS project to reduce conflicts between humans and elephants in Bukit Tigapuluh requires close cooperation with affected villages to determine and implement the best methods of deterring the elephants (for example: sound canons and electric fences). A telephone hotline was installed and a specially-trained field team was always on hand when called. This helped prevent occurrences of elephant poisoning. Feces samples were also collected and are currently being analysed at the Eijkman Institute for Molecular

Biology in Jakarta. The results will help us to identify specific individuals and determine their genders. The goal is to gather information about the behavior and characteristics of "problem elephants." Conservation genetics is a relatively new field. The FZS's elephant project does not send the samples out of the country, but rather seeks to play a pioneer role in creating expertise inside of Indonesia. The *US Fish & Wildlife Service* is playing a major role in financing the elephant project.

The FZS's Bukit Tigapuluh Program has been for many years the recipient of substantial support from the Perth Zoo in Western Australia as well as from the *Australian Orangutan Project* (AOP). In addition to receiving major financial support for wildlife protection and ranger patrols, for the mobile environmental education team, and for the FZS station's operational costs, the FZS also benefits from training in Perth – in 2011 a veterinarian and station manager were invited to Australia. In addition, experts from Perth were sent to Bukit Tigapuluh as instructors.

Bukit Tigapuluh Program Projects

- Orangutan resettlement
- Human-elephant conflict mitigation
- Wildlife protection and ranger patrols
- Ecosystem restoration concessions
- Community development and environmental education

VIETNAM

Success Combating Illegal Loggers in Kon Ka Kinh

The FZS's program to protect rare langur species and their original habitats is in transformation. Whereas we will continue to expand the forest protection project in Central Vietnam, our commitment to the Van Long Reserve and *Endangered Primate Rescue Centre* projects and Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park will be scaled back.

Under the direction of Dr Ha Thang Long, the project to protect Kon Ka Kinh National Park, which was started in 2010, has been developing well despite its initially modest budget. Rangers have been trained and the ranger posts have been better equipped for patrols in the field. In addition, illegal logging camps have been destroyed and timber

confiscated. In reaction, angry loggers attacked in late 2011 a ranger station and threatened staff. The situation has improved in the meantime and the leaders of the attack are being prosecuted.

Project staff visited the schools in the villages surrounding Kon Ka Kinh and educated pupils and teachers about the project's likeable flagship species, the Grey-shanked douc. They gave lectures on their way of life and held a drawing contest. Teachers also received training about how to continue with environmental education. The FZS wants to build on these initial positive encounters with villagers. We also expanded cooperation with the university in the coastal metropolis of Danang City – activities include courses conducted by project staff as well as joint research with students and professors in Kon Ka Kinh National Park.

While the prognosis is generally good, there are still obstacles to be overcome in realizing the planned expansion of Van Long Reserve in northern Vietnam. For example, border surveys must be conducted for the land registry office and negotiations regarding compensation carried out with abutting owners. In August 2011, in Van Long, three Delacour's langurs from the Endangered Primate Rescue Centre were resettled in a previously unpopulated section of Van Long Reserve. They are being regularly located and monitored with the help of radio transmitters. The animals are doing well and data on their activities and habitat use are currently being assessed.

In May 2011, Dirk Euler began his work as new project manager for the resettlement of Hatinh langurs in Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park (PNKB). Despite a fresh start and great commitment, conditions are still difficult here. As planned, the FZS and our project partner, the Cologne Zoo, will be withdrawing from the project in late 2012.

Vietnam Primate Conservation Program Projects

- Delacour's langur conservation in Van Long Reserve and support for the Endangered Primate Rescue Centre
- Forest and wildlife conservation in Kon Ka Kinh National Park
- Resettlement of Hatinh langurs in Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park



Top: GPS and map training for rangers in Kon Ka Kinh National Park (Vietnam).

Bottom: There were 14 new arrivals in 2011 at the two orangutan stations in Bukit Tigapuluh, bringing the total number of animals to 150. A number of births suggest that the predicted baby boom in the resettled population will take off in 2012.

“ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION CONCESSIONS ARE THE MORE REALISTIC OPTION FOR SAVING THE FORESTS OF BUKIT TIGAPULUH.”

An expansion of Sumatra’s Bukit Tigapuluh National Park was the strategy we initially favored to protect the habitat of the resettled orangutans living in the national park. In the meantime, a different alternative seems more promising.

Questions for Dr Peter Pratje, leader of the Bukit Tigapuluh Landscape Conservation Program and member of the FZS Steering Committee.

Dr Pratje, what is so special about Bukit Tigapuluh National Park?

Bukit Tigapuluh is the largest block of lowland rainforest remaining on Sumatra. But the past ten years have not been kind to Bukit Tigapuluh. What was once a 600,000 hectare forest complex shrunk during this time to nearly half its original size. In 1995, the core zone of Bukit Tigapuluh was designated as a national park. The borders of the national park were criticized by conservation organizations from the very beginning, because the demarcation of the borders was not based on protecting the ecosystem, but on the borders of existing concessions. At the time, the concessions were exclusively for precious wood exploitation. This trend has changed in the meantime.

What changes have occurred?

The “harvested” concessions are now in the regrowth stage and are not producing any income. This situation attracted the attention of cellulose companies that want to clear-cut

the remaining trees and then create industrial plantations. An alliance of nature conservation organizations is fighting these plans in the hopes of expanding the national park and protecting bordering forests.

This means that two diametrically opposed ideas for using the land are confronting each other. What are the consequences?

Yes. The stand-off between industry and nature conservation has created a management vacuum that the district administration is using to its advantage. Since 2004, district authorities may grant concessions of up to 5,000 hectares without the approval of the central government. During this time, the district has granted various small concessions for oil palm plantations and more recently for surface mining. In addition, there is settlement pressure stemming from the continuous influx of people from distant provinces. The new inhabitants want to try their luck with the newly available forest plots. Settlers can illegally purchase an official – but illegal – document from the village leader



Dr Peter Pratje, program manager Bukit Tigapuluh Landscape Conservation Program.

for € 150 per hectare. Thanks to such practices, Bukit Tigapuluh is losing over ten thousand hectares of natural forest annually.

What options are available for saving Bukit Tigapuluh?

Expanding the Bukit Tigapuluh National Park no longer appears to be a realistic option for saving the forests. Our best alternative at the moment is the creation, by nature conservation and other organizations, of so-called Ecosystem Restoration Concessions, which are required to first form and register a company.

Is this approach being implemented at Bukit Tigapuluh?

Yes. At the end of 2011, WWF Indonesia, supported by the Indonesian KEHATI Foundation and the Frankfurt Zoological Society, founded a company that has submitted an application for the rights to manage over 80,000 hectares of natural forest outside the national park. It requires a lot

of effort to educate district heads about the long-term benefits of protected forests. In the initial phase, the priority will be the creation of a ranger troop, but eventually we need to work on involving the population on the borders of the concessions. The keys to future success and forest conservation are alternative employment in manufacturing, the sustainable use of non-wood products, and the gradual development of ecotourism. It's a difficult road, but it's a unique opportunity that could quite possibly be our last!

04

SOUTH AMERICA

**FOCUSING ON LARGE
NATURAL LANDSCAPES IN
THE TROPICAL BELT**



By Dr Antje Müllner

Vicuñas graze in front of the Andes, bromeliads and orchids hang from the trees of the mountain forest, leaf-cutting ants march through the steamy Amazonian forest, anteaters wander across the broad savannah – South America’s tropical belt is incredibly diverse in habitat and animal and plant species. And there is room for the last great wilderness areas on the planet, and for the human beings living here in “voluntary isolation.” With a low population density and moderate population growth, as compared to Asia and Africa, several of the tropical countries of South America have a good chance of preserving their extraordinary biological diversity for coming generations.

Despite these relatively favourable conditions, the destruction of nature continues in South America as well. Following a period of restraint during the economic crisis, there is currently renewed sympathy for large development projects. Plans range from new road construction through pristine rainforest and the development of new oil and gas fields to gigantic hydroelectric projects that would flood untouched valleys on the eastern slopes of the Andes. Of course, tropical countries want and have the right to develop and build infrastructure. But, in practice, it is all too often the case that insufficient consideration is given to the loss of biological diversity and ecosystem services when weighing costs and benefits. Frequently, environmental impact studies and compensatory measures fail to meet international standards, projects are not coordinated across national borders, and the local population is not appropriately consulted.

Furthermore, in many developing countries these mega-projects often only superficially serve the local population. On the contrary, they are driven by the needs of develo-



ped countries for fuel, gold, palm oil, and cellulose. Needless to say, profits are shared among only a few parties. The social and economic burden, on the other hand, must be carried by all. These often unfortunate links of the global economy reveal the finite nature of the earth. Changes in consumer behaviour here also create im-

pacts there. Thus the continuous rise in gold prices in the wake of the financial crisis precipitated a gold rush along the rivers of southeast Peru that has grown into a real environmental catastrophe. It can be a very sobering experience for our project staff on the ground to realize that they are not in a position to make the high-level changes that would produce the greatest environmental benefits. That is why local victories are so important – success stories like the growing number of giant otters in Manú National Park, the creation of new conservation areas, and headway in combatting illegal gold mining in the buffer zone of the Tambopata Reserve.

For a number of years now, the Frankfurt Zoological Society has been focusing its work in South America on protecting large, intact natural environments in the tropical belt. We have gradually withdrawn from projects in temperate zones and projects dedicated to species protection. At the same time, we are expanding our rainforest protection program in Peru and are preparing future activities in Guyana. The FZS sees conservation areas as a cornerstone of national nature conservation strategies. That is why our project partners are primarily government park authorities and their corresponding management committees, comprised of representatives from villages surrounding the parks.

Dr Antje Müllner heads the FZS Department for South America and Southeast Asia.

CONSERVATION IN SOUTH AMERICA

BRAZIL

The Future Looks Bright for the Golden Lion Tamarin

Our Brazilian partner organization Associação Mico Leão Dourado (AMLD) is working to establish by 2025 a population of at least 2,000 golden lion tamarins living freely in a continuous and protected habitat of 25,000 hectares of Atlantic coastal rainforest.

This goal is in sight, since the resettlement of tamarins has been successful, and there are presently already about 1,700 animals inhabiting 24,850 hectares of state-owned and private conservation areas. In addition, new genetic studies of individual populations in the various forest blocks show that there is a sufficiently high level of variability. Computer models created on the basis of distribution, exchange, and population growth data suggest that there is a high probability that the golden lion tamarins will survive the next 100 years as long as the various populations remain connected and protected.

The national road from Rio de Janeiro to Salvador da Bahia could become a growing problem for the golden lion tamarins, since the highway bisects their habitat in its full length. In recent years, tamarins have been observed successfully crossing roads. But the planned four-lane expansion of the road will be an insurmountable obstacle to many animals. AMLD is thus lobbying the construction company to create green crossings and underpasses.

CHILE

Huemul Habitat Protected in Biosphere Reserve

For many years, the FZS has supported the *Comité Nacional pro Defensa de la Fauna y Flora (CODEFF)* in its efforts to protect central Chile's population of Andean deer, or huemul, and its habitat in the Nevados de Chillán Mountains.

In July 2011, UNESCO granted the project area biosphere reserve status as the *Corredor Biológico Nevados de Chillán – Laguna del Laja*. This means that large portions of the original southern beech forests that comprise important huemul habitat will be preserved for the future and will be under special international scrutiny. Still, the situation of huemuls in the Nevados de Chillán remains critical, since the small population of approximately 30 animals is not growing. As a consequence, CODEFF is collaborating with the forest agency CONAF to implement the existing plan to strengthen the wild population through relocation and breeding and release measures.

ECUADOR

Over Four Decades of Commitment on Galápagos

As a part of our Galápagos program, the FZS has been supporting the Charles Darwin Foundation in protecting unique animal and plant species and preserving the extraordinary habitats of the Galápagos Archipelago.

In mid-2011, there was a change in leadership at the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) and a subsequent restructuring of the departments of the Charles Darwin Research Station in Puerto Ayora. The need to make savings has led to a marked reduction in the station's activities. The FZS funded a number of activities in 2011. We supported the completion of a new Galápagos-specific curriculum (officially adopted in April 2012) as well as the maintenance and operation of the CDF research and administration station. We supported the maintenance and expansion of the herbarium, which serves as an important reference collection for scientists. FZS support also went toward expanding the publically accessible herbarium database. Finally, FZS funding also contributed to the annual monitoring of penguin and cormorant populations. The results of these surveys indicate a slight decline in both species that may be a result of climatic events in 2010 and 2011, such as El Niño and La Niña.

PERU**No Time to Let Our Guard Down on the Eastern Border of the Andes**

The FZS's Andes to Amazon Conservation Program supports the Peruvian protected area authority SERNANP and local partner organizations in managing the protected areas in south-east Peru. The goal is the long-term preservation of species-rich wilderness areas on the eastern border of the Andes.

Program activities encompass training and further training for SERNANP employees, practical support with equipment, infrastructure, and maintenance, environmental training for inhabitants of buffer zones surrounding the conservation areas, as well as pilot projects in village communities dedicated to the sustainable use of natural resources, such as turtle eggs.

Last year, the FZS conducted training courses for rangers and – in collaboration with SERNANP – developed a comprehensive capacity building concept for all employees working in the conservation area authorities. This “Plan de Capacitación” was officially adopted in 2011. On the border of the Tambopata Reserve, the FZS built and equipped the new ranger post “Otorongo”, which was established at Quebrada Farfan to put a stop to illegal gold mining. This was part of a joint undertaking, carried out by FZS Peru and WWF Peru, aimed at controlling the gold rush in the region and creating a legal framework for it.

Having originally grown out of a project to protect the giant otter, the Andes to Amazon Conservation Program continues to conduct yearly censuses of the animals. In 2011, the team in Manú National Park identified a few more otters than the year before: 46 adults and 10 juveniles, as compared to 44 adults and 10 juveniles in 2010. Were this trend to continue over the next few years, it would indicate that the otters are recovering from the stark decline in 2007 and 2008. Unusually high levels of rainfall and massive flooding during that period probably led to unfavourable living conditions.

The week-long “Giant Otter Festival” in the regional capital of Puerto Maldonado, in May 2011, was a great success. This celebration of the giant otter was planned and organized in large part by the FZS. In addition to drawing contests, brochures, and lectures, there was a simultaneous census in the Reserva Tambopata – all local inhabitants and tour guides had been called on to participate. The count: 35 adult otters and 5 juveniles. The highpoint, however, was the adoption by the Madre de Dios regional government of “*Ordenanza Regional 005*.” This piece of legislation designates the giant otter as a regional species and mandates special protection measures. The FZS and local partners have been asked to create a set of recommendations that will become the basis of the regional government's conservation efforts.

Many of the activities comprising our rainforest conservation program in Peru are now being funded by additional organizations. The FZS ranger training program is receiving backing from the Peruvian conservation foundation PROFONANPE, and a conservation and tourism development project for Manú National Park that we have been supporting is being sponsored by FONDAM (Fondo de las Américas). FZS Peru and WWF Peru are working together on a number of projects, including two dedicated to protecting Alto Purús National Park and bordering indigenous reserves, which are being funded by the Moore Foundation and USAID.

Despite a number of initiatives and small successes, this is no time to sit back and relax. The Damocles sword of road construction is hanging over southeast Peru's unique wilderness areas – a route along Alto Purús National Park is in the planning as is a route from Boca Manú at the border of Manú National Park along the Madre de Dios River. Finding ecologically sound development and regional planning strategies will be the challenge in the years to come.

Projects within the Andes to Amazon Conservation Program:

- Protection of the giant otter
- Capacity building for protected area staff
- Technical support for protected areas
- Sustainable use of natural resources in local communities



Top: For over 40 years, the FZS has supported the Charles Darwin Foundation in preserving the unique animal and plant species of the Galápagos.

Left: The golden lion tamarin project is close to achieving its goal: there are already 1700 tamarins living on 24,850 hectares of private and public protected land.

Above: Planned and organized in large part by the FZS, the "Festival Lobo del Río," which took place in May 2011 in Puerto Maldonado (Peru), was a great success. On the occasion of the event, the provincial government pledged to do more to protect the giant otter.

„THE MAYOR LONG-TERM THREAT: MINING AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION.”



Dr Robert Williams, FZS program manager Peru.

The Serengeti is not alone. Road construction is putting pressure on conservation areas around the world. The proposed road through Alto Purús National Park and the Madre de Dios Territorial Reserves could be an environmental and social disaster if it goes ahead.

Questions for Dr Robert Williams, FZS program manager in Peru and member of the FZS steering committee.

Dr Williams, what are the mayor threats to protected areas in Peru?

The continued expansion of the extractive resources industries and road network associated and driven by this is the main underlying threat to the wider region in the long-term. Gold-mining, petrol and gas blocks, hydroelectric dams are constant threats and in the long-term I suspect even threaten the integrity of the world famous protected areas like Manú National Park. Although logging and agricultural expansion are slow, they are constantly nibbling away at the edges of these great wilderness areas of rain-forest and the road network expanding is creating new edges and dividing the areas.

The proposed road through Alto Purús National Park and the Madre de Dios Territorial Reserve is the most imminent and worrying threat; this could be an environmental and social disaster if it goes ahead as it will lead to illegal logging, deforestation and be a route for colonisation and hunting as well as meaning the end for the uncontacted indigenous groups that live in the area.

What kind of challenges did the project face last year?

Dealing with the changes in government that came in July and then the major cabinet reshuffle that came in December. These changes mean we see changes in heads of protected areas and in protected area agencies and slow down the work as you rebuild working relationships and explain work plans again. Each person has different visions and you have to adapt and replan the work based around that. In the end it can be positive but it consumes a lot of time and energy.

Looking back at 2011, what was your greatest success?

Personally I think getting the giant otter declared regional species for Madre de Dios and the increased protection that this will bring in the long run, is a great success. Although only a small step, it was the fact that 12,000 local people signed a letter to the regional president that made it our biggest success for me. It shows that people identify themselves with the giant otter and really care about it which is a great result after FZS's years of work on the species.



05

FINANCIAL REPORT

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
2011**

The economic standing of the Frankfurt Zoological Society of 1858 e.V. (FZS) and the “Help for Threatened Wildlife” Foundation will be reported on separately, but the two organizations are closely linked. Established in 2001 with most of the capital available to the Society, the Foundation is dedicated to securing the long-term financing of the FZS’s nature conservation projects.

The model of a foundation and a society to carry out operations has proven itself over the years, offering donors and supporters various ways of contributing to our conservation work. A review of the balance sheets of the Society and Foundation shows a very stable and positive trend. Despite the financial crises of recent years, there have been only two years (2007 and 2008) in which our balance sheet totals for the organization as a whole (Society and Foundation) actually shrunk. In 2007, we also directed € 2 million from the Society to support the Frankfurt Zoo. The results for the following years clearly demonstrate that the entire organization has continued to develop in a positive fashion.

We were able to extend this positive trend in 2011. Our endowment, which represents the basis of the resources available to the Frankfurt Zoological Society, continues to grow. The total balance of the Foundation and FZS amounted to € 68.69 million last year, an increase of 3.58% (2010: € 66.32 million).

“HELP FOR THREATENED WILDLIFE” FOUNDATION

In 2011, the Help for Threatened Wildlife Foundation paid out € 2,237,111 for the FZS’s conservation projects. This total includes contributions from the Munich-based Eleonore Beck Foundation of € 666,000. Income from capital investments – particularly with regard to the special

funds – lagged behind gains from long-term investments and thus also failed to meet our basic targets. Average performance was a meagre 1.5%. These results can be traced back to the very difficult capital market situation, with very low interest rates, and a turbulent stock market. As compared to previous years, however, we were able to maintain a constant level of payouts. Thanks to the FZS’s favorable income situation, in 2011 we were able to bolster reserves to 33.33% (in 2009 and 2010 we temporarily scaled back our reserves to 10%).

The Foundation’s endowment capital increased slightly last year, up by € 0.2 million to € 52.43 million – the future looks bright for our long-term conservation work.

FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF 1858 E.V.

2011 Revenues

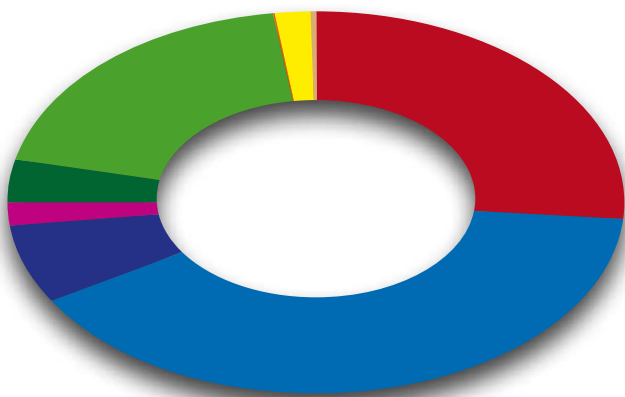
We are very pleased about our revenues in 2011. We were able to surpass expectations in all revenue streams. Income from memberships increased only slightly, but direct donations were up markedly from € 0.61 million to € 0.78 million.

Revenues from fixed-interest securities, dividends, and other sources of interest, which are managed in-house, amounted to approximately € 445,000 – an increase over last year despite the difficult capital market situation.

The majority of other revenues came from a number of large and valuable estates and bequests. Revenues from these sources amounted to € 3.17 million last year.

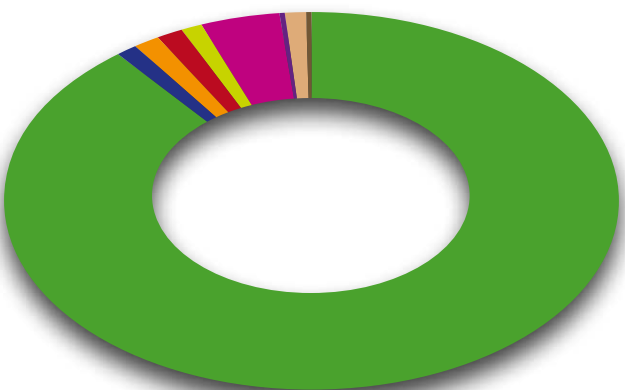
The larger and more comprehensive estates and bequests are, the greater the investment of time and personnel needed to manage them – particularly when the FZS serves as executor. The fact that FZS staff and our lawyer have decades of experience managing complex estates is enormously helpful. Taking into account financial and tax considerations, we are capable of converting estates consisting of real estate or closed-end funds into appropriate investment vehicles for the Society and Foundation.

REVENUES FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY	2011	2010
Bequests, Real Estates	3.17	0.63
External Funding	4.77	3.09
Donations	0.78	0.61
Membership Dues	0.23	0.23
Interests	0.45	0.45
Bonuses from Foundations	2.29	2.18
Zoo Lottery	0.01	0.01
Other Revenues	0.22	0.29
Other Revenue Security	0.02	0.12
TOTAL (IN MILLION EURO)	11.94	7.61



- 26.57 % Bequests, Real Estates
- 39.95 % External Funding
- 6.54 % Donations
- 1.95 % Membership Dues
- 3.72 % Interests
- 19.15 % Bonuses from Foundations
- 0.11 % Zoo Lottery
- 1.83 % Other Revenues
- 0.18 % Other Revenue Security

EXPENDITURES FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY	2011	2010
Project Costs	8.02	7.32
Membership Services	0.10	0.09
Fundraising	0.13	0.11
Environmental Education, Public Relations	0.14	0.15
Legal Advice	0.09	0.08
Coordination of Conservation Programme, Frankfurt Headquarters	0.36	0.40
Support of Frankfurt Zoo	0.05	0.08
Losses Security	0.08	0.03
Depreciation and Amortisation of Fixed Assets	0.02	0.02
TOTAL (IN MILLION EURO)	8.99	8.28



- 89.20 % Project Costs
- 1.11 % Membership Services
- 1.44 % Fundraising
- 1.58 % Public Relations
- 1.06 % Legal Advice
- 4.04 % Coordination of Conservation Programme, Frankfurt Headquarters
- 0.45 % Support of Frankfurt Zoo
- 0.87 % Losses Security
- 0.25 % Depreciation and Amortisation of Fixed Assets

ASSETS OF FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY	2011	2010
FIXED ASSETS		
Intangible Assets	35.87	0.00
Material Assets	3,256.32	2,529.27
Financial Assets	8,861.09	8,316.54
CURRENT ASSETS		
Receivables and Other Assets	1,355.04	1,719.90
Cash, Postal Giro, Banks	2,705.82	1,494.27
Prepaid Expenses and Deferred Charges	44.77	28.10
TOTAL (IN TEUR)	16,258.91	14,088.08

LIABILITIES OF FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY	2011	2010
SOCIETY ASSETS		
Society Assets	15,124.59	12,171.69
Special Reserves	874.95	164.96
LIABILITIES		
Towards Banks	0.00	0.00
Other Liabilities	217.96	253.40
Prepaid Expenses and Deferred Charges	41.41	1,498.03
TOTAL (IN TEUR)	16,258.91	14,088.08

ASSETS OF THE FOUNDATION "HELP FOR THREATENED WILDLIFE"	2011	2010
FIXED ASSETS		
Material Assets	0.00	48.00
Financial Assets	50,437.16	51,031.89
CURRENT ASSETS		
Other Assets	231.37	513.37
Liquid Assets	487.38	294.20
Balancing item for retained fund earnings	1,276.79	345.02
TOTAL (IN TEUR)	52,432.70	52,232.48

LIABILITIES OF THE FOUNDATION "HELP FOR THREATENED WILDLIFE"	2011	2010
FOUNDATION ASSETS		
Foundation Capital	42,783.70	42,600.37
Reserve for Regrouping of Properties	909.88	882.88
Revaluation Reserve	779.47	927.25
Reserve for Administration of Properties	6,144.07	5,567.90
Reserve for Purposes of the Foundation	1,792.17	2,237.11
SPECIAL RESERVES	13.20	16.30
LIABILITIES	10.21	0.67
TOTAL (IN TEUR)	52,432.70	52,232.48

2011 Expenditures

Project expenditures amounted to approximately € 8,02 million in 2011, which included about € 4.8 million in dedicated external funding and approximately € 3.01 million of our own resources. Thus expenditures remained within the budget parameters approved by the Board.

Last year we made important investments in the future of our organization. There were special expenditures for new financial software that is now being used in all FZS projects around the world, and we also held a number of planning workshops (Planning Strategy 2020, meetings of the Steering Committee).

The surplus was deposited to FZS reserves in order to secure long-term project commitments for future years and to buffer fluctuations in revenues from estates as well as the ups and downs of capital markets. We are continuing to efficiently develop our administrative capacity in the area of finances in order to better manage and control the risks associated with the increasing volume of project funding and investments. This is important to guarantee the stable development of the Society.

Continuous Auditing

Most of our projects are subject to direct auditing commissioned by the external funding organizations themselves to monitor spending and general finances. Thus, our EU-sponsored projects in Ethiopia and Congo are audited directly by the accounting firm Ernst & Young.

The activities of our Africa Program Office ARO in Seronera/Tanzania were also audited by Ernst & Young.

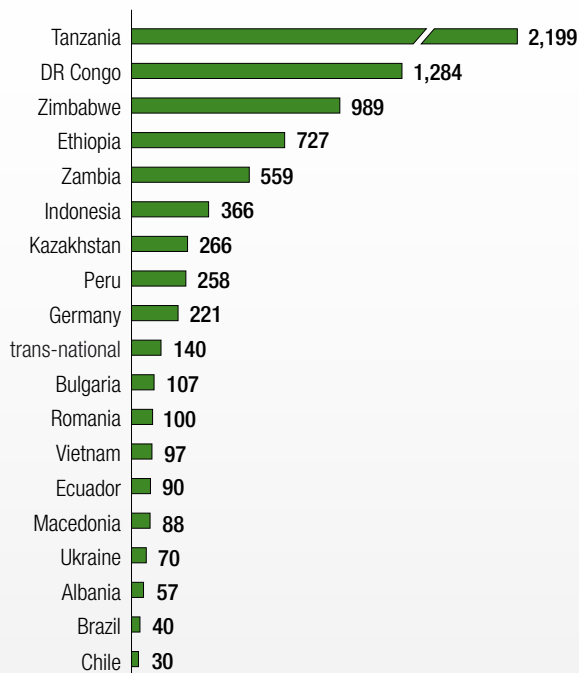
The Annual Report of the “Help for Threatened Wildlife” Foundation and the Frankfurt Zoological Society was audited by *W+ST Wirtschaftsprüfungs GmbH* of Frankfurt am Main. The Financial accounts of the FZS and Foundation were approved without restriction by *W+ST*.

Cooperation and Partnerships with other Foundations

The FZS maintains a range of important, long-term partnerships with private foundations. These include: *Allianz Umweltstiftung*, *Gregor Louisoder Umweltstiftung*, *Hildegard-Haube-Stiftung*, *Charlotte und Werner Herrmann Stiftung*,

2011 PROJECT FUNDING BY COUNTRY

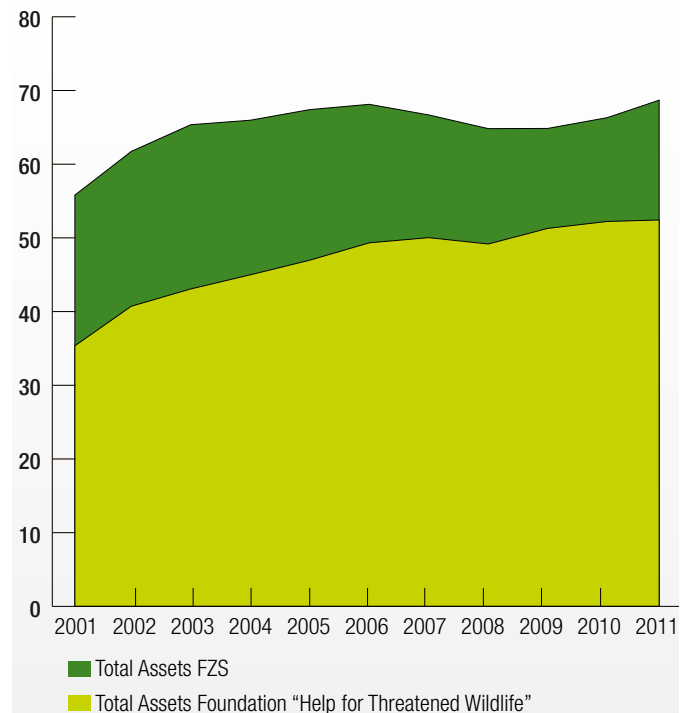
in thousands of Euro



Total FZS funding from internal and third-party sources of projects in different countries.

DEVELOPMENT OF ASSETS 2001 – 2011

in millions of Euro



At 68.69 million €, the total assets of the Society and Foundation reached in 2011 the highest level since the creation of the Foundation in 2001.

Irene Thiermann Stiftung, Stiftung Polytechnische Gesellschaft, Linnemann Stiftung, Wolfgang und Ingrid Hensel Stiftung, Sigrid I. Gramm de Berumen-Stiftung, Iso-Elektra Heinrich Piepho Stiftung, Institut für Gemeinwohl and Stiftung Feuchtgebiete.

The FZS is a particularly well-positioned to partner with small foundations of which there are many in Germany. We are able to provide the operational services that are often beyond their means. Our long experience in nature conservation and long-term local partnerships as well as our internal controlling and external auditing practices ensure efficiency and accountability in our management of project-specific funding.

External Funding

Third-party funding, which amounted to € 4.8 million last year, encompasses government funds, grants from other organizations, contracts and partnerships. The most important sources of external funding and cooperation partners in 2011 included: the European Union, *Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt* (DBU), Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz), Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bundesministe-

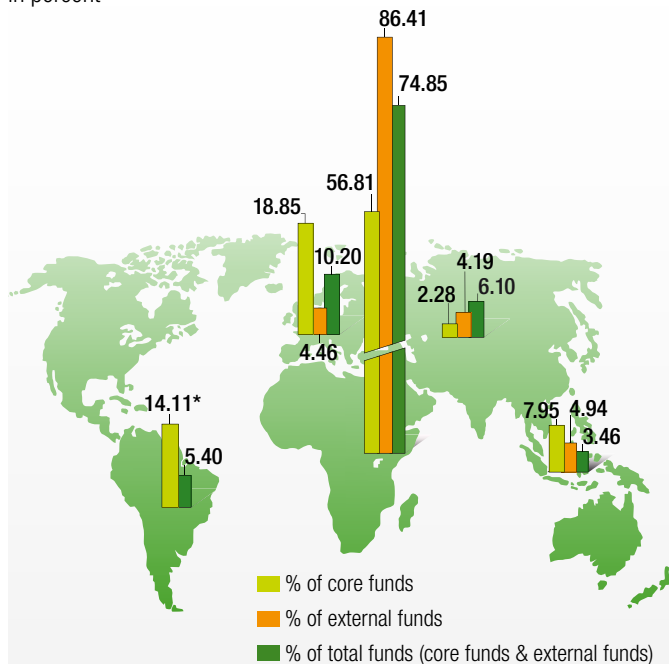
rium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung, BMZ), KfW Entwicklungsbank, Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM), *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ), Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit), Federal Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt, BMU), Paul Tudor Jones Family Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, USAID, government of Finland (LifeWEB), Darwin Initiative, Perth Zoo, Australian Orangutan Project, and PanEco.

FZS Management of Independent Foundations and Trusteeships

In recent years, private individuals have been increasingly establishing foundations, either during their lifetimes or in their testaments. Upon request, the FZS can manage foundations that conform to our own charter and allow us to invest returns in FZS projects.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING BY CONTINENT

in percent



Thanks to the large proportion of third-party funding – and representing 75% of our total project expenditures – Africa is the focus of our nature conservation activities. Internal funding represents a greater proportion of total project funding on various other continents.

*Figures do not include direct external funding by the independent conservation organization AVISA in South America.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

North America

Thanks to the initiative of the FZS, in March 2008 the non-profit organization, Grzimek's Help for Threatened Wildlife Inc., based in Florida/USA, was granted tax-free, charitable status under section 501(C)(3) of the US tax code. The organization is dedicated to the protection of wild species and their habitats, and it pursues this goal largely by providing the FZS with project-specific funding.

South America

Founded in 2002, the charitable *Ayuda para la Vida Silvestre Amenazada – Sociedad Zoológica de Francfort Perú – AVISA SZF PERÚ*, is the FZS's deputation in Peru. AVISA is committed to preserving biological diversity in Peru, particularly within the national conservation area system, SINANPE. AVISA runs its own projects and supports other government and non-government organizations in applied research, park protection and management, training, and environmental education.

MORE DONATIONS THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS

The support of our members and sponsors plays a major role in ensuring that the FZS can carry out its conservation work in a continuous and consistent way. That is why we are delighted to report an increase in donations of 19% as compared to the previous year. This amounts to a total of € 781,196.03 in donations in 2011. Most of these donations are dedicated to specific projects. A little over a quarter of donations (27%) are unrestricted, allowing us to invest where it is needed most. These funds also help us to fulfil our obligations in joint projects and to acquire external grants. In this way, we can multiply the contributions of our supporters. We are particularly pleased to see our supporters starting their own fundraising campaigns for FZS projects that are close to their hearts. Member-solicited donations, such as gifts to mark anniversaries and birthdays, increased by 46% in 2011.

Many of donors are also FZS members and some have been for decades. In 2011, we had 3,656 members behind us. We also recorded an increase in donations to specific projects. Continuous support of this kind is enormously helpful, since it allows us to plan better and, ultimately, to invest more effectively in conservation. FZS supporters are ambassadors whose enthusiasm for nature conservation and our work has a multiplier effect.



CONSERVATION WEEK

In September 2011, children at Elly Heuss School in Wiesbaden took part in a conservation project dedicated to the bearded vulture. Posters, flip books, a life-size paper vulture – the kids had lots of ideas about how to draw attention to the threat facing Bearded Vultures. The highlight was a donation campaign in Wiesbaden, where the children sang vulture songs they had composed themselves. One student even dressed up as a Bearded Vulture.



WEDDING GIFTS FOR ORANGUTANS

Michael and Melanie Enders from Offenbach have been big orangutan fans since childhood, and when they decided to get married, they asked for donations to our orangutan project instead of gifts. Their wedding guests were happy to oblige.



BIRTHDAY DONATIONS FOR GONAREZHOU

FZS member Paul Ebert celebrated his 60th birthday with the theme of "Africa" and asked his guests to donate to our project in Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe.

PUBLICATIONS 2011

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS, BOOKS, REVIEWS, REPORTS

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PRESENTATIONS BY FZS STAFF ON SYMPOSIA & CONGRESSES

Fischer A., Lowassa A. (2011): Bushmeat hunting in western Serengeti: Impacts of social and environmental changes. Invited presentation at the international ATBC/SCB-Africa conference, June 2011, Arusha, Tanzania.

Nadler, T. (2011): Captive breeding of highly endangered primate species and challenges for their reintroduction. Presentation „WARN Conference“ (Wildlife Animal Rescue Network), November 2011, Thailand.

Rentsch D. (2011): Alternative protein sources to bushmeat. Presentation at „TAWIRI bi-annual scientific conference“ December 2011, Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute, Arusha, Tanzania.

Rentsch D. (2011): Knowledge, Research and the Role of NGOs in Conservation: a Serengeti case study. Presentation at „ATBC and SCB Africa Meeting“ June 12 – 16, Arusha International Conference Center, Arusha, Tanzania.

Rentsch D. (2011): Price Elasticities and Bushmeat Consumption in the Serengeti Ecosystem. Presentation at „TAWIRI bi-annual scientific conference“, December 2011, Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute, Arusha, Tanzania.

Salemgareyev A. (2011): Aerial census and other wildlife count methods in Kazakhstan. Presentation at „Monitoring of wildlife population and determining sustainable hunting levels – methods of resource assessment, data processing and quota setting in the context of international requirements“, June 22–27, 2011, International Academy for Nature Conservation, Isle of Vilm, Germany.

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Tadie D., Fischer A. (2011): Hunting and the challenge of biodiversity conservation in South Omo, Ethiopia. Presentation at the international ATBC/SCB-Africa conference, June 2011, Arusha, Tanzania.

Yitbarek T.W., Timer G., Fischer A. (2011): Sharing of revenues from protected areas in Ethiopia: Does it foster conservation? Poster presented at the Student Conference for Conservation Science, March 2011, Cambridge, UK.

Yitbarek T.W., Timer G., Fischer A. (2011): Sharing of revenues from protected areas in Ethiopia: A conflict management tool? Presentation at the Aberdeen Centre for Environmental Sustainability (ACES) Conference: Conservation Conflicts: Strategies for coping with a changing world, August 2011, Aberdeen, UK.

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PARTNERS & SPONSORS 2011

Adelaide Zoo (Australia)	Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund (USA)
African Wildlife Conservation Fund (Zimbabwe)	Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (Ethiopia)
Allianz Umweltstiftung (Germany)	Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Project EWCP (Ethiopia)
Amhara Environmental Protection Authority (Ethiopia)	European Commission Delegations in DR Congo, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Amhara National Regional State: Parks Development and Protection Authority (Ethiopia)	European Union EU (Belgien)
Asociación para la Conservación de la Cuenca Amazónica ACCA (Peru)	Farm Africa/SOS Sahel (Ethiopia)
Associação Mico-Leão-Dourado AMLD (Brazil)	Flora and Fauna International (UK)
Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan ACBK (Kazakhstan)	Fondo de las Americas FONDAM (Peru)
Australian Orangutan Project AOP (Australia)	Fondo Nacional para Areas Naturales Protegidas por el Estado PROFONANPE (Peru)
Balkani Wildlife Society (Bulgaria)	Forest Protection Departments of Provinces Danang, Gia Lai, Khanh Hoa, Ninh Binh, Quang Binh (Vietnam)
Beit Trust (UK)	Forest and Hunting Committee of Ministry of Agriculture of Republic of Kazakhstan (Kazakhstan)
Berggorilla und Regenwald Direkthilfe (Germany)	Freunde der Bonner Konvention/Friends of CMS e. V. (Germany)
Biology Department, Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia)	Fundación Charles Darwin FCD (Ecuador)
BirdLife International (UK)	Gemeinde Kusterdingen (Germany)
British Embassy in Ethiopia (Ethiopia)	Gregor Louisoder Umweltstiftung (Germany)
Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation (Bulgaria)	Green Balkans (Bulgaria)
Bundesamt für Naturschutz BfN (Germany)	Grumeti Reserves and Grumeti Fund (Tanzania)
Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit BMU (Germany)	Grzimek's Help for Threatened Wildlife (USA)
Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung BMZ (Germany)	Hildegard-Haube-Stiftung (Germany)
Centro de Recursos y Educación en la Selva CREES (Peru)	Horn of Africa Regional Environmental Centre (Ethiopia)
Centrum für internationale Migration und Entwicklung CIM (Germany)	Houston Safari Club (USA)
Charlotte-und-Werner-Herrmann-Stiftung (Germany)	Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature ICCN (DR Congo)
Comité Nacional Pro Defensa de la Fauna y Flora CODEFF (Chile)	Institut für Gemeinwohl (Germany)
Conservation Carpathia Foundation (Romania)	International Gorilla Conservation Programme IGCP (Rwanda)
Conrico International Ltd (UK)	International Union for Conservation of Nature IUCN (Switzerland)
Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals CMS (Germany)	Irene Thiermann Stiftung (Germany)
Danang University (Vietnam)	Iso-Elektra Heinrich Piepho Stiftung (Germany)
Darwin Initiative (UK)	Jack Wolfskin GmbH & Co. KGaA (Germany)
Department of Interior (USA)	Jane Goodall Institute (USA)
Deutsche Botschaft, Daressalam (Zambia)	Kiev Sociological Centre for Nature Conservation (Ukraine)
Deutsche Botschaft, Lusaka (Zambia)	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau KfW (Germany)
Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt DBU (Germany)	KwaZulu-Natal Parks Board (South Africa)
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GIZ GmbH (Germany)	Linnemann-Stiftung (Germany)
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GIZ-Peru (Peru)	Josef und Therese Arens Stiftung (Germany)
Deutsche Lufthansa AG (Germany)	Macalester College (USA)
Deutscher Naturschutzring DNR (Germany)	Macedonian Ecological Society MES (Macedonia)
Directorate of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation PHKA (Indonesia)	MainÄppelHaus Lohrberg (Streuobstzentrum e.V.) (Germany)
	Manfred-Hermsen-Stiftung (Germany)
	Ministerio del Ambiente MINAM (Peru)
	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (Ukraine)

Ministry of Environment Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Kazakhstan)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland (Finland)

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