

ANNUAL REPORT

FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2014 PROSPECTS FOR 2015



FRANKFURT
ZOOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

*Frankfurt Zoological Society
conserves wildlife and ecosystems
focusing on protected areas and
outstanding wild places.*

FZS Mission



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€ 9.2m *for our conservation projects worldwide*

273 *staff worldwide*

3,133 *sponsors and donors*

30 *projects and programmes in 16 countries*

3,516 *members*

Dear Readers and Friends of the FZS,



One year ago I took up the honorary position of President of the Frankfurt Zoological Society. This was a great honour – but it was also a great challenge following in the footsteps of Gerhard Kittscher who had enjoyed such a long and successful presidency. I had been a Board member of the “Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt” foundation since 2010, and was familiar with the FZS, yet I wanted to take the time to get to know the organisation, its structure, and the people behind the many projects, in more detail.

The FZS has grown considerably over the last ten years. Its project volume has risen several times, the number of employees (especially those in the field) has increased, and the network of connections at both the national and international level has become more tightly intermeshed. I have taken up the post to help FZS manage this growth and above all to assist in the process of professionalisation by contributing my corporate experience and sharing my connections. My first priority was to find out how a decentralised non-profit organisation with a flat hierarchy works and to see how we can retain the spirit of the FZS family, i.e. the characteristic which makes such a small organisation so special, despite all this rapid growth and professionalisation.

I am impressed by what I have seen. Be it in the FZS office in Cusco, Peru or in the project office in Vietnam, I got to know people who are dedicating their time and their knowledge to working on (frequently very challenging) FZS projects – all with the requisite degree of enthusiasm. The challenge which the staff members face is nearly always the same – an enormous increase in the pressure on the last areas of wilderness which they are trying to preserve. There is an urgent commercial desire to tap into the last reserves of our planet.

The FZS takes a unique approach in all its projects. It first establishes a genuine partnership with the authorities or the relevant local organisations. The strategy of FZS is to then help them to perform their work effectively and to protect their own country's natural treasures. It is a highly successful strategy – but not always an easy one – because we can count on considerable assistance from major and reliable donors. Without these, our work would not be possible.

I am delighted to present this review of the eventful year of 2014 along with a preview of the current year in the present Annual Report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Klaus Becker". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Klaus Becker
President of Frankfurt Zoological Society



“Wilderness and biodiversity are key concepts for nature conservation in the twenty-first century. Conservation areas are the most important factors in protecting both.”

It was oppressively hot when we set up camp on the banks of the Rio Manú in southeast Peru. Clouds of mosquitos (*manta blanca and punto rojo*) descended mercilessly upon us. As a backdrop to the sandbank, a green wall of forest rose 40 metres into the air; in front of us, the muddy water of the river flowed in tremendous meanders across the landscape. A few gorilla logos of the Frankfurt Zoological Society were visible on our modest equipment. This was the beginning of my work for the FZS. Twenty-five years ago.

Like few regions in the world, Manú National Park continues to impress upon us what wilderness is and why it needs to be preserved. Rangers, tourists and scientists can occasionally be encountered along the banks of the river, however, the forest interior, covering thousands of square kilometres, remains untouched by outside human influence.

Of course, people live in the park: largely uncontacted tribes speaking distinct languages and living integrated into nature – and completely dependent on it. There are only very few of these native people living in the park and their impact does not differ fundamentally from that of other living things in the rainforest. Evolutionary processes are at work here that have over the millennia led to the creation of extremely diverse systems. These people have not yet put themselves above their environment's natural processes through farming, animal husbandry, and the use

of machines and fossil fuels. In other words, they have not become a geological force that dramatically impacts the biosphere and global climate.

The forests along the river store carbon and regulate water. They are simultaneously core centres of biodiversity, ecological reference zones, and natural treasures. That is why it is so important to save these remnants of true wilderness – of which fewer and fewer remain.

The forests along the Manú river store carbon and regulate water. They are simultaneously core centres of biodiversity, ecological reference zones, and natural treasures.

Wilderness and biodiversity are key concepts for nature conservation in the twenty-first century. Conservation areas, and above all national parks and connecting corridors, are the most important factors in protecting both, and this is precisely where the FZS is focusing its energies.

On this note, we pride ourselves with a number of success stories over the past year. In Germany, the wilderness movement is gaining strength, although we are still a long way away from attaining the government's official goal of preserving 2% of the country's area as wilderness. Co-founded by the FZS, the Bran-

“For Africa’s gardeners – elephants and rhinos – poaching currently represents the greatest threat.”

denburg Wilderness Foundation (Stiftung Naturlandschaften Brandenburg) presides over lands that demonstrate how wild-fire, wind breakage, and infestation shape the development of wilderness. Wolves feel at home in these environments, and we can observe how the wilderness of the future is developing on Berlin’s doorstep. Further to the east in the Carpathian Mountains of Ukraine and Romania, we are working together with our partners to preserve the remaining large forests – genuine European wilderness.

Profit for a few is bringing devastation to many.

In central Asia there are plans for major corridors to be preserved comprising millions of hectares that will increase the biological integrity of the protected steppe areas and make possible large scale animal migrations. After years of negotiations, in July 2015 we were able to secure the signature on contracts that create ecosystem concessions in the buffer zones surrounding Bukit Tigapuluh National Park. This will result in forest preservation and habitat rehabilitation instead of clear-cutting, palm oil plantations, and bituminous coal mining. The best news of the year by far from Africa come from our project leaders in Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe. While a bloody wave of poaching is taking the lives of tens of thousands of elephants and confronting us with tremendous challenges in many places, in Gonarezhou the elephant population is at a record level high. Populations of other large mammals are also showing increasing trends. Gonarezhou is once again what its name means in the language of the Shona people: Land of Many Elephants.

For Africa’s gardeners – elephants and rhinos – poaching currently represents the greatest threat, while the loss of habitat and migration corridors continues. The characteristics of many eco-

systems and their dynamics and biodiversity are determined by these large mammals.

Tourism is an important source of income and jobs in countries south of the Sahara, and in many cases is dependent on the presence of these charismatic animals. Their disappearance has huge consequences – not just for nature, but especially for people. Today we can already witness how poaching and illegal trade are undermining established legal systems and compromising security. Profit for a few is bringing devastation to many.

Those years in a tent in the pristine wilderness on the Rio Manú taught us respect. Nature confronted us central Europeans with physical and psychological challenges. We experienced things that we could no longer encounter at home: gigantic trees that live long enough to die of old age, some toppling without the help of wind and storms; rivers carving up the landscape unhindered; otters fishing in oxbow lakes; major predators, like jaguars, seldom seen, but neither shy nor aggressive. Never before had we really understood what wilderness means – the will of the land not the will of humans.

We have to protect some of the most beautiful, species-rich, and wild areas of the world. This is our responsibility to future generations. We are counting on your support.



Dr Christof Schenck
FZS Executive Director

GERHARD KITTSCHER

PRESIDENT OF GROWTH

After more than three decades of committed work, former FZS President, Gerhard Kittscher, retired from the Board of Directors of the Frankfurt Zoological Society in September 2014. He will, however, be continuing in the post of Chairman of the Foundation Board.

He served thirty-four years on the Board of Directors (1980 to 2014) and thirteen years as President (2001 to 2014); these figures reveal the time and effort he has invested and how much personal commitment he and his family have shown. Gerhard Kittscher has, therefore, more than earned a place for himself among the ranks of his distinguished predecessors. Bernhard Grzimek, whose name is inextricably linked to our society, may have re-established the FZS as a registered society after the War, but he only became President once his active period as Zoo Director was over. Grzimek enjoyed sixteen years as President, from 1971 until his death in 1987.

Richard Faust then led the society for 13 years, from 1987 to the end of 2000. Following the sudden death of Richard Faust, Gerhard Kittscher took over at the start of 2001. He, too, then led the FZS for 13 years.

Continuous development

No other period of office saw such monumental change and growth in the FZS as that which took place during Gerhard Kittscher's presidency. He represented the FZS amongst a range of other foundations, steadily growing a network for the FZS.

“Gerhard Kittscher opened many doors for us, and convinced many individuals to offer financial support to the FZS. He sacrificed much of his free time and made use of his professional connections to sup-



Former FZS President Gerhard Kittscher.

port, shape, and advance the cause of our organisation,” noted Executive Director, Dr Christof Schenck. The close coordination, but also the clear division of labour between Schenck and Kittscher, proved to be a major success factor behind the development of the FZS and its increased international links over the last decade.

By representing the FZS on the boards and bodies of the Eleonore Beck-Stiftung, the Brandenburg Wilderness Foundation, the Johanna-Samel-Stiftung and not least also the sister organisation in the USA, the Frankfurt Zoological Society-US, Gerhard Kittscher helped establish outstanding connections. He himself was also instrumental in setting up two key foundations, the German “Stiftung Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt” founded in 2001, which

is now the main financial pillar of the FZS, and the “Stiftung Zoo Frankfurt” set up in 2014. Both foundations root the causes of the FZS solidly in the foundation scene in Frankfurt, securing support indefinitely in the foreseeable future.

“Neither any of this nor the productive and trust-based collaboration should be taken for granted. On behalf of the FZS and myself I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mr Kittscher,” remarked Christof Schenck. Kittscher will retain his links to the FZS by remaining Chairman of the Foundation Board of “Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt.”

THE FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY



THE FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Zoologische Gesellschaft Frankfurt von 1858 e.V. (Frankfurt Zoological Society) is a registered non-profit-making society based in Frankfurt. The Society was substantially shaped by Professor Bernhard Grzimek who used the FZS as a basis for his worldwide conservation work from the late 1950s onwards.

The FZS headquarters are located in Frankfurt. Here, 20 members of staff, managed by Executive Director Dr Christof Schenck, govern the international conservation programme. FZS has an honorary Board which is elected by the members of the general meeting to a three year term. The Board approves the yearly programme, the budget and the asset management as put forward by the Executive Director. The Society currently has 3,516 members on its books, consisting of private individuals, companies and institutions.

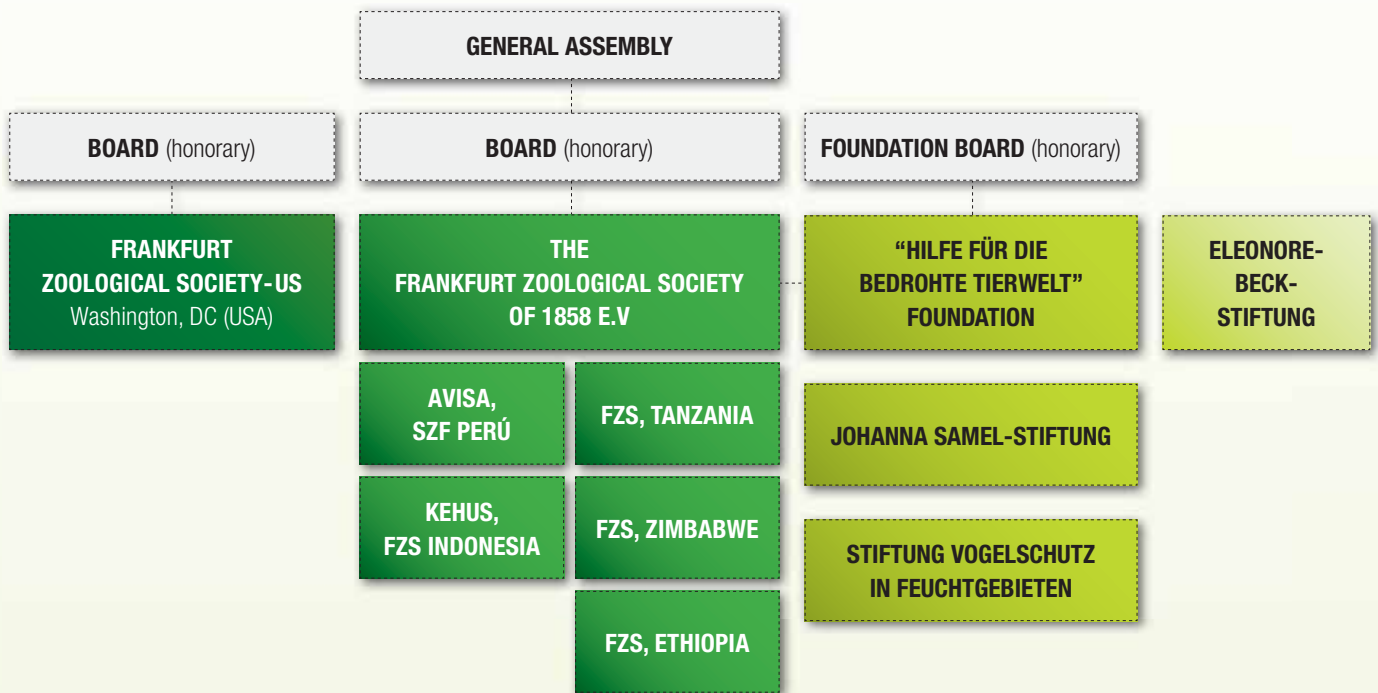
According to its legal charter the FZS pursues two main goals: preserving biological diversity and wilderness areas around the world, and supporting the Frankfurt Zoo.

At the end of 2014, the FZS had 273 employees worldwide. We also have 40 volunteers working as conservation ambassadors at the Frankfurt Zoo where they spend their spare time explaining the FZS's conservation projects to zoo visitors. There are another 30 – 40 young volunteers in Peru participating in environmental education programmes in schools and the conservation area visitor centres, providing information on diversity in the Amazon rain forest and on its inhabitants.

STRATEGY AND OBJECTIVES

Uniting the committed and professional members of the FZS team is their passion for wildlife and wilderness. Our experience of practical conservation work in the different conservation areas and our practical approach are key aspects of our success. We enter into a long-term commitment in all our projects because conservation requires time and patience. We carry out a large proportion of our projects and programmes using our own staff, but we also support many partner organisations in the respective countries. However, the success of the conservation work in a particular region depends to a great extent on our local partners, the national park authorities or conservation area administrations. Good collaboration is based on trust and partnership and is therefore the central element of our conservation work in all our project countries.

As a relatively small conservation organisation, efficiency and a clear focus are crucial to our activities. Which is why the FZS concentrates its efforts on specific ecosystems – large grasslands, forests, wetlands and mountains. Our main geographical focal points are East Africa, South America, Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe. National parks and conservation areas, such as the Serengeti (Tanzania), Virunga (DR Congo), Manú (Peru) and Bukit Tigapuluh (Sumatra), are where most of our resources have been directed over the years.



The registered association (e. V.) is at the heart of the FZS network dedicated to global conservation work. The FZS is also registered as an independent organisation in a number of countries in which the Society carries out its projects. The main sister organisations

are the Frankfurt-based “Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt” foundation and also the Frankfurt Zoological Society-US headquartered in Washington, DC.

THE FZS NETWORK

Standing at the side of the FZS is the Frankfurt-based “Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt” foundation, which we established in 2001. The foundation has a capital stock of EUR 63 million. The revenue from this capital is used exclusively for supporting the conservation work of the FZS.

In 2008 the FZS established an independent non-profit organisation – Frankfurt Zoological Society-US. This organisation enjoys 501(c)(3) status which allows donors and large sponsors from the USA to offer tax-deductible support to our projects.

Since 2012 this foundation has been run by Dr Peyton West and has developed into a key project financing element for the conservation activities, attracting roughly USD 4.3 million in donations and external funds in 2014.

In South America, too, the FZS has its own organisation. Founded in 2002, Ayuda para Vida Silvestre Amenazada – Sociedad Zoológica de Francfort Perú (AVISA SZF PERÚ) is a charitable organisation that pursues the mission of the FZS in Peru. The FZS is also registered as a local non-profit organisation in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Indonesia.

SUPPORTING FOUNDATIONS

The charter of the Munich-based Eleonore-Beck-Stiftung stipulates that it support exclusively the work of the FZS. The foundation has now become a major funding factor for our work. There are also various independent and non-independent foundations under the umbrella of our “Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt” foundation. These include the Johanna Samel-Stiftung and the “Stiftung Vogelschutz in Feuchtgebieten”.

FZS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND FOUNDATION BOARD 2014/15

The FZS is run by a board of directors. The General Assembly elects and discharges the Board which consists of up to eight individuals and is elected for three years. The Board approves the yearly programme, the budget and the asset management as put forward by the Executive Director. All the board members conduct their duties on an honorary basis. The FZS Board of Directors, for its part, appoints the members of our "Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt" Foundation Board who also work on an honorary basis.



Klaus Becker has been elected FZS President in September 2014. He is Chairman of the KPMG AG Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft board in Frankfurt and has been a member of the Foundation Board since 2010.



Professor Manfred Niekisch is the Vice President of the FZS. The Director of Frankfurt Zoo has been a member of the FZS Board of Directors since 2002 and is also a member of the "Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt" Foundation Board.



Professor Volker Mosbrugger is the Director General of the Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung and has been a member of the FZS Board of Directors since September 2008.



Renate von Metzler holds many different honorary positions in Frankfurt and has been a member of the FZS Board of Directors since 2003.



Hans Joachim Suchan was Administrative Director of Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen (ZDF) and has been a member of the FZS Board of Directors since 2002.



Gerold Dieke is a former chief administrative officer of the government and has been a member of the FZS Board since 2008.



Alexandra Prinzessin von Hannover was a member of the FZS Board of Directors from 1999 until her death in June 2015. She was also a member of the "Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt" Foundation Board.



Dr Thomas Kantenwein is a lawyer in Munich and has been a member of the FZS Board of Directors since 2008. He is also a member of the Foundation Board.



Dr Rudolf Kriszeleit was State Secretary in the Hessian Ministry of Justice for Integration and Europe; he has been a member of the "Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt" Foundation Board since 2004.



Johann-Peter Krommer is a member of the Polytechnische Gesellschaft Frankfurt am Main foundation and has been a member of the Foundation Board since 2006.



Dr Altfried M. Lütkenhaus is a member of the management board of the Frankfurter Sparkasse and has been a member of the Foundation Board since 2010.



Gerhard Kittscher was FZS President from 2001 to 2014 and a member of the FZS Board of Directors since 1980. He has been Chairman of the "Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt" Foundation Board since 2001.



Dr Manuela Rottmann is a solicitor and has been a member of the "Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt" Foundation Board since March 2013.



Dr Jürgen Heraeus is the Chairman of the Supervisory Board and Chairman of the Shareholders' Committee of Heraeus Holding GmbH. He has been a member of our "Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt" Foundation Board since March 2013.

OBITUARY

A PASSION FOR FRANKFURT

Alexandra Prinzessin von Hannover (Alexandra Princess of Hannover) passed away on 1 June 2015 in Frankfurt following a serious illness. Her death leaves a large gap in the FZS family because “the Princess,” as she was affectionately known, provided us with stalwart support over 16 years.

Alexandra von Hannover was elected onto the Board of Directors of the Zoologische Gesellschaft Frankfurt von 1858 e. V. in 1999. It was a period of far-reaching and momentous change when, towards the end of the period of office of former Executive President, Dr Richard Faust, the FZS decided to put itself onto a more professional footing and develop into an international organisation.

In the heated debate which ensued, Prinzessin von Hannover always adopted a clear position. In 2001, she was instrumental in setting up the “Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt” foundation aimed at safeguarding the conservation assets of the FZS and their use. Prinzessin von Hannover helped to turn the steadily growing FZS into a German conservation organisation of global importance. As recently as December 2014 she was actively involved in shaping the current 2015 project programme.

The Frankfurt city councillor in charge of cultural affairs, Professor Felix Semmelroth, described Prinzessin von Hannover as a person with a “passion for Frankfurt.” For over three decades she helped determine Frankfurt’s urban policy and culture. From 1980 to 2011 she was a member of the city parliament, deputy head of the city council, cultural policy spokesperson of the CDU parliamentary party and a close friend of the former Frankfurt Mayor, Petra Roth.

Thanks to her position and connections in the city of Frankfurt, Prinzessin von Hannover helped to establish the status and work of the Frankfurt-based FZS within the city’s own urban society. She showed us ways of tapping into new sources of support for our work, opened doors and forged valuable links to new allies for our conservation activities. She followed reports from our projects all over the world with great interest and always considered carefully the issues which were discussed by the Board of Directors and Foundation Board before arriving at a clear decision. She also showed great interest in the work of our staff in the Frankfurt office, and especially in those working out in the field on the different projects.



Gerhard Kittscher, Chairman of the “Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt” Foundation Board with Alexandra Prinzessin von Hannover.

The FZS family is extremely grateful for Prinzessin von Hannover’s many years of voluntary support, for her devotion to the cause and for her noble-mindedness which made such a valuable and lasting impression on us. We are extremely thankful for her commitment and will always hold her memory in the highest esteem.

*Gerhard Kittscher
Chairman of the Foundation Board*

DISTINCTIONS, AWARDS AND EVENTS 2014

JANUARY

Panel Discussion – Poaching

A high-ranking delegation from the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) authority visited the FZS head office in Frankfurt at the end of January to coordinate further cooperation in Tanzania, especially with regard to the battle against poaching. In a public panel discussion organised by the FZS, representatives from TANAPA, the FZS and the Federal Ministry for Economic Operation and Development (BMZ) presented concrete measures aimed at combatting poaching.



Frankfurt panel discussion on the subject of poaching – with Dr Ezekiel Dembe (Director of Planning and Development TANAPA), Dr Christof Schenck (FZS Executive Director), Dagmar Andres-Brümmer (FZS, moderator), Gudrun Grosse Wiesmann (Head of the Africa subsection and Director for African Affairs at the BMZ), Kerstin Faehrmann (Head of the Energy, Infrastructure and Raw Materials Division, BMZ) and the Tanzanian Ambassador Philip Sang’Ka Marmo (from left).

FEBRUARY

Presidential Visit



Tanzanian President Kikwete meeting the FZS team in Seronera: Robert Muir, André Baumgarten and Felix Borner (from left).

On 19 February 2014 our office team was honoured to welcome Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete who arrived in the presidential aircraft at the small Seronera airstrip in the Serengeti. FZS Africa Director, Robert Muir, also had the opportunity to talk at length with the President about the urgent measures needed to combat poaching and the work of the FZS in the country.

MARCH

Off-rovers for Rangers

On 11 March 2014 the FZS handed over eleven new vehicles to Tanzania National Parks and the Wildlife Division. Six vehicles are being deployed in the Serengeti as part of the “German Development Cooperation” programme with GIZ and KfW. The other five are being used in the Maswa and Selous Game Reserves. They give the rangers greater mobility and make their work in the vast conservation areas more manageable. Tanzanian President, Jakaya Kikwete, received the vehicles in person in front of the seat of government, the State House in Dar es Salaam, from Robert Muir, Africa Director of the FZS. He took the opportunity to praise the commitment and the continuous support of the FZS in Tanzania’s battle against poaching.



President Kikwete receiving the vehicles in the presence of Lazarus Nyalandu, Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Paul Sarakikya, Deputy Director of the Wildlife Division, Allan Kijazi, Director General of TANAPA and William Mwakilema, Chief Park Warden of the Serengeti National Park, and representatives of the German embassy and the GIZ.

MARCH**Visit from the Foreign Minister**

German Minister for Foreign Affairs, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, landed in hot and humid Dar es Salaam on 25 March 2014. His large Airbus was parked right next to the small, zebra-striped Cessna of the FZS. Despite his tight schedule, Minister Steinmeier found time to meet with FZS Executive Director, Christof Schenck, and Africa Director, Robert Muir, to hear the latest news regarding elephant and rhino poaching. Steinmeier expressed his admiration for the work of the FZS, saying that conservation is not only about preserving species but also about development and foreign policy goals, as poaching encourages organised crime and endangers development targets as a result.



FZS Executive Director, Christof Schenck, with Tanzania's Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Lazaro Nyalandu, and German Minister of Foreign Affairs, Frank-Walter Steinmeier (from left).

MARCH**€ 12 Million for Forest Protection**

Roughly a quarter of the Hohe Schrecke forest in Thuringia in eastern Germany will remain undeveloped in the future with the aim of creating a "virgin forest of tomorrow." The project was officially launched on 25 March 2014. The Federal Environment Ministry has contributed EUR 9.1 million, and the Free State of Thuringia, EUR 1.8 million. Further funding has been provided by the FZS, Bund für Umwelt- und Naturschutz Deutschland (BUND – Friends of the Earth Germany) and other conservation organisations. The total available to Naturstiftung David for the work is over EUR 12 million. The FZS will be donating a total of roughly EUR 400,000 to Naturstiftung David over the next ten years as a project partner. The project will enable large areas of forest to be retained and many smaller biotopes to be linked together. If we wish to protect unspoilt forests internationally, then we must first set a good example here in Germany.

MARCH**Award for Menz-Guassa**

In March 2014, the International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA) presented its 5,000 US dollar Mountain Protection Award to the Menz-Guassa Community Conservation Area (GCCA) in the northern Ethiopian highlands. The FZS has been supporting the protected area under the sovereignty of the communities in Menz-Guassa for many years. The award represents a major success for the Menz-Guassa Community Conservation Area and for the FZS staff members who, as project consultants, have worked hard to bring together different interest groups with the aim of pooling their resources to protect the essential natural and cultural resources of the region and to encourage sustainable tourism.



Role-model for sustainable tourism: Menz-Guassa in Ethiopia.



Federal Minister of the Environment Barbara Hendricks and Thuringian Minister of the Environment Jürgen Reinholz in Hohe Schrecke.

APRIL**50 Years of Partnership with Tanzania**

On 26 April 2014 Tanzania celebrated its 50th state anniversary but also five decades of bilateral relations with Germany. The FZS, for its part, has also cooperated intensively with the East African country for 50 years and has enjoyed continuous links with Tanzania National Parks since 1963. The Tanzanian Ambassador, His Excellence Philip San'Ka Marmo, honoured this long-term commitment by presenting an award to the FZS during the anniversary ceremony in Berlin. Marmo presented a certificate recognising the work of the FZS aimed at protecting the fauna and flora of his country.



Dagmar Andres-Brümmer accepted the award on behalf of the FZS from Sang'Ka Marmo in Berlin.

MAY**Giant Otter Festival in Peru**

The fourth annual "Festival del Lobo de Rio" (otter festival) was held in May 2014 in Puerto Maldonado in eastern Peru. The FZS team was once again out in force, working hard to support the public relations work for the giant otter. Over the six days, children were able to find out all about the festival's mascot, "Pepe the giant otter," the charismatic animal from their own country, and learn a great deal by playing different games and carrying out handicraft activities.



Playful learning with the giant otter colouring book.

MAY**Mobility for Ukrainian Rangers**

In 2014 the FZS launched a project on the Ukrainian side of the Carpathian mountains aimed at providing permanent protection to the last virgin forests of Europe. One of the first steps was to strengthen the administration of the national parks and to provide the authorities of the established conservation areas with equipment such as vehicles, binoculars, radio and GPS devices. In May 2014 the Verkhovynskiy and Karpatskiy National Parks received two off-road vehicles and a quad bike to support the rangers in their conservation work.



Presenting vehicles to Ukraine national parks.

MAY/JUNE

Great Elephant Census



The Serengeti Elephant Census team.

Our Serengeti team had three exhausting weeks of work in May/June. This was when the FZS helped carry out part of the Serengeti Elephant Census in which all the elephants in the entire Serengeti ecosystem are counted. Three aircraft were used for this. Each aircraft contained a pilot and three observational staff members equipped with high-resolution digital cameras. The aircraft were in the air for more than 230 hours and completed a distance equivalent to circumnavigating the globe around the equator. The Serengeti National Park is at the heart of one of the last largely unspoilt wilderness ecosystems in the world, and harbours a critical elephant population.

The last full elephant census was conducted in 2009. The 2014 census was part of the Great Elephant Census financed and organised by the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation. The aim was to record all elephants, dead or alive, across the entire continent of Africa.

Numerous NGOs were involved, such as the IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group, Elephants without Borders, the WWF, the Wildlife Conservation Society, the African Parks Network, Save the Elephants and the Frankfurt Zoological Society. Other key participants included the conservation and national park authorities of the individual countries



Counting elephants from the air.

concerned. In the first year of the census, elephants and other large herbivores were counted in 19 countries; the FZS helped count in Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

The figures for Tanzania were finally released in June 2015 and were presented by the Ministry for Natural Resources. The alarming result reflects the extensive problem of elephant poaching in the country. There are currently 43,521 ($\pm 3,078$) elephants living in Tanzania. In comparison, the results of the 2009 census recorded 109,051 ($\pm 5,899$) elephants, representing a 60 percent reduction of the population in just five years.

Especially alarming are the losses in the Selous-Mikumi, Ruaha-Rungwa and Malagarasi-Muyovozi ecosystems. Only in two ecosystems – Serengeti and Tarangire-Manyara – has the elephant population grown. The ambitious project is the largest pan-African census to be taken since the 1970s. It is hoped that it will provide new findings on how many elephants still exist, where they live and their migration habits – data which is of great significance for ensuring the survival of the African elephant and which provides a sound basis for all further conservation activities.

→ www.greatelephantcensus.com

SEPTEMBER**New Generation on FZS Board of Directors**

The General Meeting in September 2014 brought about a change of guard on the Frankfurt Zoological Society's Board of Directors. After presenting his final review to the members as President for the highly successful year of 2013, Gerhard Kittscher took his leave after 34 years on the Board. Forty-nine year-old Klaus Becker was newly elected to the Board – and subsequently to the position of President – by a large majority. Becker has been a member of our “Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt” Foundation Board since 2010. As the Chairman of the Board of KPMG Germany, Becker carries managerial responsibility for several thousand employees. Becker is an auditor and chartered accountant with a degree in Business Administration, and has extensive experience in providing auditing and consulting services to multinational and DAX companies. For the FZS, the appointment of Klaus Becker to the post of President represents a further step along the road to becoming a more professionally-structured international organisation.



President Klaus Becker with FZS staff during the General Meeting.

OCTOBER**Schubert Award for Conservationists**

The Bruno H. Schubert Foundation presented its Bruno H. Schubert Awards in October 2014 – the private environment awards with the highest prize money in Germany. The FZS is particularly delighted that Dr Zelealem Tefera, the FZS Ethiopia representative, received the award in the second category for his commitment to the Guassa-Menz area in Ethiopia. The “voluntarios ambientales” received the award in the third category. These young people from Peru are supporting the FZS programme in the east of Peru where logging and gold mining are having a devastating ecological impact on the rainforest. Three other 2014 Bruno H. Schubert Award winners also have long-term links to the FZS: Dr Hans-Joachim Mader and Hubertus Meckelmann (Award Category 2) have been contributing to the work of Brandenburg Wilderness Foundation for almost two decades, and the main award winner, Prof Anthony Sinclair, has been associated with the FZS for many years. The results of his Serengeti research have been used in the daily conservation work of the FZS for decades now.



Dr Zelealem Tefera with Professor Niekisch, Chairman of the Foundation Board.

NOVEMBER**Retirement from the Presidency**

The FZS bade farewell to its former President, Gerhard Kittscher, with a nocturnal tour of the zoo, mulled wine around a campfire and an autumn-themed buffet in the ape house. After 34 years of dedicated work on the Board of Directors and 13 years as President, Kittscher decided not to stand for directorial office again at the General Meeting in September. See also page 7.

MEDIA

FZS PROJECTS ON TV AND FILM

In 2014, FZS projects were involved in more TV productions than ever before. As every year, FZS worked together with a whole range of independent production companies and German public TV editors to generate exposés and treatments for potential TV projects. A total of 21 different proposals and film ideas were created and promoted; nine of these were realised or pursued in 2014, with two further projects being produced in 2015.

One of our declared aims is to make significant improvements to our online communication; we will be further increasing our own video footage production accordingly. At the start of 2014 an FZS-produced video on the elephant census in Selous (Tanzania) went online. A series of smaller clips filmed by the projects themselves ranged from camera trap footage and project work through to local events. In November the film maker Nicky Lankester produced video footage of our work in the Serengeti. Two of the resulting clips are now available online.

Deutsche Welle – Joint Success

Two further film projects – about Peru and Sumatra – were turned into FZS projects together with Deutsche Welle. These followed the successful “Serengeti – Wanderung ins Ungewisse” project, an online documentary by Deutsche Welle (DW) on the Serengeti, and the FZS project work in the previous year. The DW Serengeti documentary won the “intermedia-globe Gold” award at the WorldMedia Festival in May 2014, and made it through to the final round in the New York Festivals Television & Film Awards.

The web documentary on our Sumatra project, “A School for Orangutans: Learning to survive in the wild,” took gold at the WorldMedia Festival in May 2015.



Filming with Deutsche Welle.

Shooting the Grzimek-Film

For one week in May the Frankfurt Zoo served as the film set for the “Grzimek” TV film. Scenes were shot in the historical animal enclosures, at the zoo pond and in front of the Gesellschaftshaus; the film itself was then presented at a press conference held at the Zoo. The film honours the life and work of FZS-founder Bernhard Grzimek and was broadcast on German television in April 2015. To accompany the broadcast, the FZS intensified its PR efforts as part of a “tailwind campaign” aimed at drawing attention to “Grzimek's legacy”, the conservation work of the FZS.



Grzimek – the film family: Jan Lennart Krauter (Michael Grzimek), Katharina Schüttler (Erika Grzimek), Barbara Auer (Hildegard Grzimek) and Ulrich Tukur (Bernhard Grzimek).



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PROJECTS IN AFRICA**ETHIOPIA**

Afro-alpine Ecosystem Conservation Project AECP

Bale Mountains Conservation Project

Conservation in Ethiopia; Coordination

Afromontane Conservation in Ethiopia

Community Afromontane Monitoring Project CAMP

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Virunga National Park Conservation Project

Maiko National Park Conservation Project

Upemba National Park Conservation Project

ZAMBIA

North Luangwa Conservation Project

ZIMBABWE

Gonarezhou National Park Conservation Project

TANZANIA

Serengeti National Park; Park Operations

Serengeti National Park; Garage and Vehicles

Serengeti National Park; Rhino Repatriation Project SRRP

Serengeti Ecosystem Management

Serengeti Community Outreach SCO

Conservation in the Selous Game Reserve

Conservation in the Mahale Ecosystem

Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute TAWIRI Support

Maswa Game Reserve Support

TRANS-NATIONAL

Africa Regional Office ARO & ARO Aircraft

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

PROJECTS IN EUROPE**ALBANIA**

Management of Prespa National Park

BULGARIA

Biodiversity Protection in the Balkan Mountains and
Reintroduction of Griffon Vultures

GERMANY

Wildlife Protection in Brandenburg; Brandenburg Wilderness Foundation

Günztal Riverbed Restoration

Hohe Schrecke Beech Forest Conservation Project

Wilderness in Germany

KAZAKHSTAN

Altyn Dala Steppe Ecosystem and Saiga Conservation

ROMANIA

Establishing a Forest Conservation Area

UKRAINE

Conservation of Primary Forests in the Ukrainian Carpathians

BELARUS

Bialowiesza Forest Conservation Project

TRANS-NATIONAL

Osogovo Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Bulgaria, Macedonia)

PROJECTS IN SOUTH AMERICA

BRAZIL

Support of Cantão Protected Area

COLOMBIA

Supporting the Community Rangers of Cahuinari National Park

PERU

Andes to Amazon Conservation Programme

Protection of the Giant Otter

Capacity Building for Protected Area Staff

Technical Support for Protected Areas

Environmental Education and Education Support in Matsigenka Villages

ProBosque Manú – Forest Protection and Management of Natural Resources in the Manú Biosphere reserve

GUYANA

Protection of the Kanuku Mountains

PROJECTS IN ASIA

INDONESIA

Bukit Tigapuluh Programme

Orangutan Resettlement

Human-Elephant-Conflict Mitigation

Wildlife Protection and Ranger Patrols

Ecosystem Restoration Concessions

Community Development and Environmental Education

VIETNAM

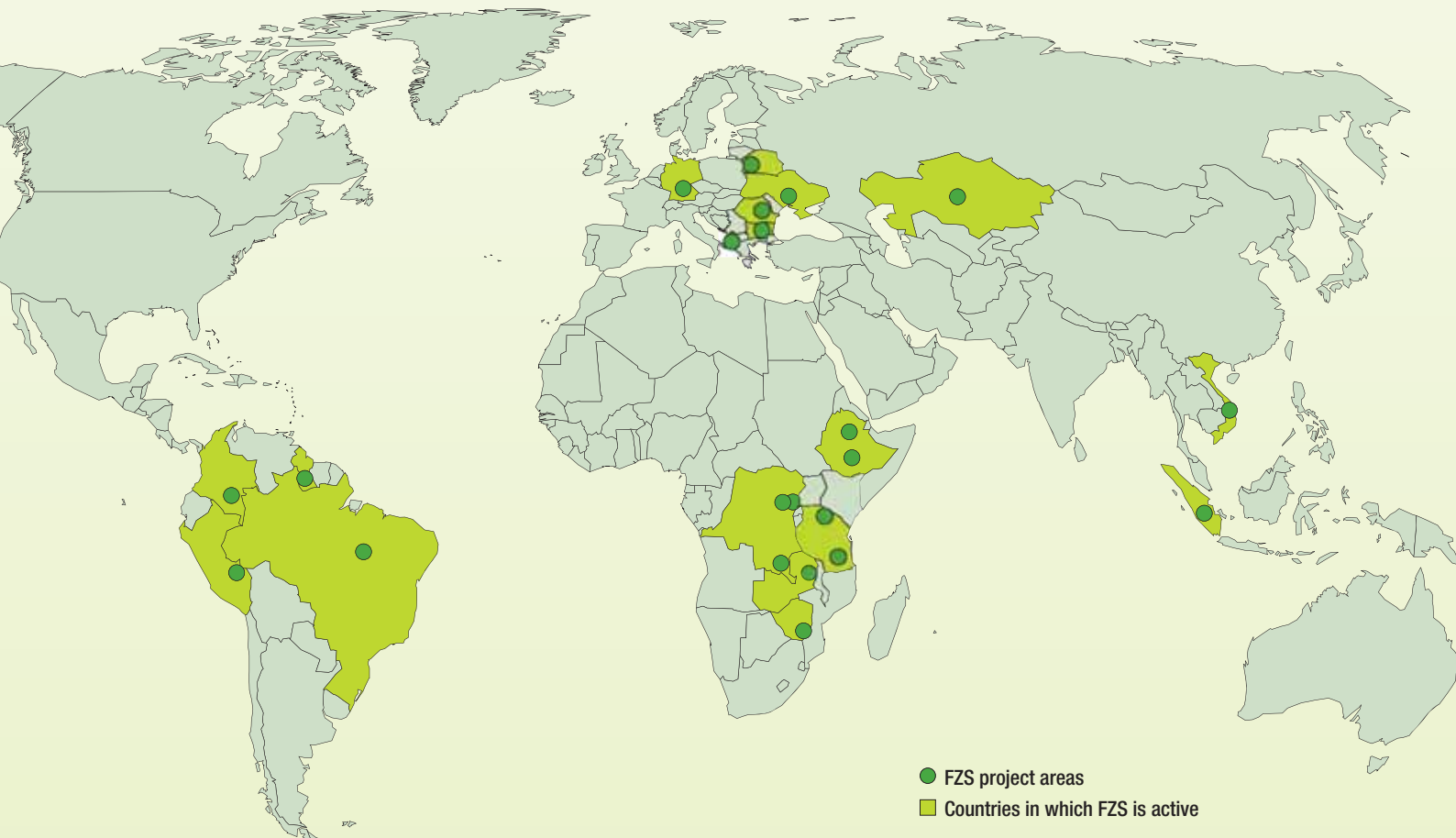
Vietnam Primate Conservation Programme

Forest and Wildlife Conservation in Kon Ka Kinh National Park

SMALL PROJECTS

Small Project Grants South America & South East Asia

Management Support and Project Identification in South America



● FZS project areas
 ■ Countries in which FZS is active

COMBAT POACHING

Poaching remains a major issue for our projects in Africa and there is no quick solution in sight. But there is good news as well. An interview with Africa Director Robert Muir.



Mr. Muir, was 2014 a successful year for the FZS Africa Programme?

2014 was the most successful year we have ever had for fund-raising in the Africa Programme. We received considerable third party funding from both US and German governments and private donors designed mainly to improve monitoring and protection in the Selous and Serengeti.

What was the biggest challenge in the past year?

The poaching crisis continued to represent our single greatest challenge. Tanzania has been the most greatly effected, and 2014's aerial surveys indicated dramatic declines in a number of elephant strongholds. While elephant numbers for Selous appear to be stabilising, there is no indication that poaching networks have been dismantled. The Ruaha-Rungwa ecosystem lost in excess of 1.000 elephants a month during 2014, and efforts may soon shift to Serengeti. More needs to be done to halt the decline of Africa's charismatic mega herbivores.

Did the FZS Africa Programme adapt to these challenges?

FZS Africa developed internally. We held a regional meeting and brought together staff from across the programme to discuss successes, challenges, and the way forward. We carried out an organisational assessment and provided training in Human Resource Management, and further developed the Africa Strategy. We carried out a study investigating "what works where, and why?" focusing on law enforcement and anti-poaching in sub-Saharan Africa, and explored different management models designed to increase our ability to have real impact.

Long delays renewing our Memorandum of Understanding with Tanzania's Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism created a significant administrative burden. It also impaired our tax-free status, hindering procurement and reducing resources available for field activities.

What were the most important events within the Africa Programme?

In January a TANAPA delegation visited FZS headquarters in Frankfurt, with productive discussion and exchange. A few weeks later Germany's foreign minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier visited Tanzania and met with us to learn about the poaching crisis in the country. We also had the pleasure of meeting Tanzania's president Jakaya Kikwete during his private stay in Serengeti, and were able to discuss important conservation issues with him.

In October our project manager and FZS country representative Dr Zelealem Tefera from Ethiopia was awarded the German Bruno H. Schubert-Award for his scientific achievements and practical application in the area of nature conservation in Ethiopia.

What were the achievements you personally liked?

Securing funding for and successfully carrying out a nation-wide elephant survey in Tanzania, thereby documenting the current situation and establishing a baseline from which we must document the recovery of elephant populations. The results from the wildlife count in Ganarezhou indicated population growth across all surveyed species, showing that with the right kind of support, parks can recover. We also made progress on "going green" at the Africa Regional Office, after a donation of 68 solar panels from Jinko Solar, and I look forward to using sustainable, environmentally-friendly solar energy in 2015.

CONSERVATION IN AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

Conserving Afroalpine Habitat in Northern Ethiopia

PROJECT: Afro-alpine Ecosystem Conservation Project AEEP

START: 2004

PROJECT AREA: 585 km²

We are working to build human and institutional capacity for biodiversity protection and management in three key highland areas: Simien Mountains National Park, Abune Yoseph Community Conservation Area (AYCCA) and Guassa Community Conservation Area (GCCA).

2014 saw legal consolidation of the formation of Guassa and Abune Yoseph Community Conservation Areas. It also commenced the phase out process of FZS support to Simien Mountains National Park and the implementation of our exit strategy in the Community Conservation Areas.

In Guassa, funding was secured to help mitigate pressures on the area with the establishment of alternative livelihood options for households likely to break GCCA management rules. A variety of initiatives commenced including beekeeping, livestock fodder, crop production, and highland fruit tree initiatives as well as a fuel-efficient stove project likely to be complete by end of year. Support was also provided to the new government office that will partner with GCCA in the future.

In Abune Yoseph, legislation to proclaim the Community Conservation Area was submitted to the Regional Parliament and is awaiting ratification.

In Simien Mountains National Park, task forces comprising members of the local government, Parks and the communities were supported and have been very successful in the reduction of grazing pressure within the park as well as general law enforcement.

Senior staff member and Ethiopia Country Representative, Zelealem Tefera, was awarded the Bruno H. Schubert Prize in October 2014 for his scientific achievements and practical application in the area of nature and environmental protection.

ETHIOPIA

Protecting One of the World's Most Irreplaceable Ecosystems

PROJECT: Bale Mountains Conservation Project

START: 2004

PROJECT AREA: 2,200 km² (park), 8,000 km² (ecosystem)

The Bale Mountains boast the largest remaining alpine habitat on the African continent and a significant number of Ethiopia's endemic species. FZS is working in partnership with the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) to protect this irreplaceable area by strengthening park management, improving local livelihoods, and enhancing sustainable natural resource management in the surrounding area.

The largest achievement in 2014 was the official gazettelement of the park. Installation of beacons around the border began, and infrastructure was maintained and developed, including the construction of four staff houses and a store for the horse trekking association. Two senior scouts received six weeks of training in South Africa. Police and the judicial authorities successfully prosecuted 100% of illegal coffee planting cases in the park, representing a significant accomplishment for the park's law enforcement.

Tourism revenue and development progressed considerably, with the official opening in January 2014 of the park's first high quality visitor accommodation, Bale Mountain Lodge, located in the Harenna forest, followed by the introduction of a tourism plan for the park in November 2014. A tourist campsite, two new walking trails and the foundation for the makings of the new visitor centre were completed by the end of 2014. Tourism awareness and promotion days were held for local communities throughout the year. Ecological recording of plants and wildlife is on-going and helped in the creation of an EWCA approved birding book.

Around the park, twelve new Participatory Forest Management sites were established and two additional sites are in progress. Beekeeping, conservation-friendly farming methods and fruit farming projects were carried out throughout the year and the basket and handicraft group in Dinsho attended the Addis Bazaar twice during 2014. Environmental education programmes continued in the area, and 90% of school environmental education club members showed significant increase in environmental knowledge after participation.



Part of the project is the planting of apple tree seedlings that will later be distributed in the villages around Bale Mountains National Park, to improve life conditions outside the park.

In 2015, we will continue our support for park management and protection. In particular we will continue to work with the local and national government to develop and implement a re-settlement plan for people living within the park, whilst also improving local livelihoods and sustainable natural resource management in the surrounding area. We will complete the construction of the new visitors centre, and continue to improve tourism in the park.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Support for Africa's Oldest National Park

PROJECT: Virunga National Park Conservation Project

START: 1957

PROJECT AREA: 7,800 km²

There are approximately 800 mountain gorillas left on earth, roughly half of which inhabit the forests of the Virunga volcanoes. FZS provides financial and political support to Virunga park management in order to secure this volatile area and prevent the continued destruction of forest habitat and poaching.

2014 was a high profile year for Virunga National Park, with the threat of oil exploration, tenuous security and the release of "Virunga," a full-length documentary highlighting the situation. The documentary was shown at film festivals worldwide and nominated for Best Documentary at the 87th Academy Awards. Shortly before the premier of the film in early 2014, the Chief Park Warden, Emmanuel de Merode, was ambushed and shot. Although de Merode recovered after a few months, this incident in combination with the oil threat and ongoing publicity for the park dominated the full attention of park management for much of the year. Park leadership focused funding on securing the park. The infrastructure FZS had previously put in place, including tourism support and the chimpanzee habituation programme were fully turned over to the park management and integrated into park operations.

On-going insecurity in the region coupled with strengthened park leadership, led FZS to continue political and financial support, but without technical involvement. Going forward, FZS will continue to support Virunga in this way, and in 2015 will establish a new digital communications system, regularly assess the situation and provide targeted support where it is most useful and strategic.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Maiko – a Remote and Unexplored Forest

PROJECT: Maiko National Park Conservation Project

START: 2011

PROJECT AREA: 10,885 km² (park), 55,000 km² (ecosystem)

Maiko is one of the most remote and inaccessible parks in the world, protecting huge tracts of forest and three of the DR Congo's most important endemic species (the Grauer's gorilla, the Okapi, and the Congo peafowl). It is also a bastion to a rebel group, the Simba Mai Mai. FZS, co-funded by BMZ, is supporting the protection of Maiko by providing an initial assessment of the biodiversity in the park. This will provide information needed to strategise future monitoring and protection efforts. Simultaneously, FZS is promoting community development and the resettlement of the Simba Mai Mai back into civil society.

A new project manager led the effort for 2014 and accomplished activities related to community relations and threat mitigation in the park buffer zone. Early in the year, finishing touches were made on the school at Bitule, which is now being used by local children. Nine hundred fuel-efficient stoves were distributed to families in the buffer zone around Maiko and trainings were provided to demonstrate efficient use, ultimately decreasing fuel usage by over 50%.

In addition, FZS focused on capacity building and implementing biodiversity surveys in the park. The surveys proved challenging as the security situation was volatile throughout all of 2014. However, in collaboration with Fauna and Flora International (FFI), training for Maiko rangers was conducted on techniques of great ape monitoring, composing biodiversity surveys, and small mammal sampling. The best rangers went on to carry out surveys in the park later in the year and gathered important data on chimpanzee, okapi, leopard, duiker and other wildlife identified within the coverage area. While signs of gorilla were not found, it is inconclusive that gorillas are absent from the zone, as they are often found in low densities, which may not be picked up from the survey.

As FZS was closing the BMZ-funded project at the end of 2014, ICCN expressed concern about FZS leaving Maiko. In 2015, we will assess our relationship with ICCN and the potential for future work in Maiko before making a decision on how to proceed.

TANZANIA

Increasing Elephant Numbers in our Flagship Project

PROJECT: Serengeti National Park

START: 1957

PROJECT AREA: 14,750 km² (park), 25,000 km² (ecosystem)

Our work in Serengeti National Park dates back to the 1950s, when Professor Bernhard Grzimek began his pioneering in-situ conservation efforts. Today we continue our support to the Serengeti by providing financial and technical support to Tanzania National Parks for park security, ecological and threat monitoring, and adaptive management, with a particular focus on anti-poaching strategies that are currently needed to protect elephants and rhinos as poaching pressure increases.

Using funds from the Wyss Charitable Endowment, along with additional support from KfW, an Operations Room was constructed at Park Headquarters for centralised monitoring and management of resource protection assets. The first phase of the installation of a park-wide digital VHF network was also completed, with a new repeater installed, and base stations and radios installed in all ranger posts and vehicles. In addition, six high-capacity Land Rovers that were purchased in late 2013 were officially handed over to TANAPA at the Presidential Palace in Dar Es Salaam, and later deployed to Serengeti National Park to boost the existing anti-poaching vehicle fleet.

The Serengeti rhino monitoring units were supported with the provision of rations, and in April 2014, an independent expert review of the Serengeti Rhino Repatriation Project was undertaken, with a comprehensive report submitted and a number of recommendations made. Going forward, we will use these recommendations to inform our future support to rhino monitoring and protection in the park.

A new manager was recruited for the Serengeti workshop, who joined the team in July 2014, bringing a wealth of experience in vehicle maintenance and workshop management. The new manager implemented a number of positive changes, which have improved efficiency and enabled more rapid turnover of vehicles. Towards the end of 2014, renovation began to expand and improve the workshop facility.

Several TANAPA personnel were supported with training and study visits, including a management course for the Serengeti



The newly built operations room will act as the nerve centre for monitoring and coordination of anti-poaching operations in the park.



In 2014, the FZS together with TANAPA and TAWIRI conducted an aerial survey of the elephant population in the Serengeti-Mara-Ecosystem. During the Paul G. Allen Great Elephant Census a total of 7,535 elephants were counted in this ecosystem.

Chief Park Warden, a SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Report Tool) course for the Serengeti Head of Protection, an exchange visit to Gonarezhou National Park for a number of senior staff, and a Lion Guardians workshop to engage local Maasai in lion conservation.

FZS worked with TANAPA and TAWIRI to conduct an aerial total count of the Serengeti-Mara ecosystem in May/June 2014, as part of the Paul G. Allen Great Elephant Census. A total of 7,535 elephants were counted in the survey area, with 6,087 of these elephants recorded in the Serengeti ecosystem: approximately 3,000 more than the number counted in the previous survey in 2009. While this significant increase can, in part, be explained by in-migration from neighbouring areas, it is also due to natural population growth and provides an encouraging indication of successful conservation efforts.

During the census, FZS documented significant encroachment in the east of the park, particularly by Maasai with cattle. FZS sup-

ported TANAPA operations to remove bomas from inside the park, seize cattle and reinforce the park boundaries. Although the operations were successful, it is clear that this will continue to be an issue and an area of focus for park management.

Another area of growing concern is the expansion and intensification of tourism in the park. It is clear that tourism planning will be a major challenge for park managers in the future, and thus an area FZS will potentially support.

The Serengeti Operations Room will be fully functioning in 2015 and the renovation of the vehicle workshop will be completed. We also intend to carry out training, provide support to the intelligence unit and continue to provide equipment, rations and develop infrastructure as per TANAPA's needs. It is also envisioned that substantial investment in new vehicles will be necessary in the near future in order to ensure a functional fleet and avoid excessive repair and rehabilitation costs.

TANZANIA

The Great Elephant Census

PROJECT: Paul G. Allen Great Elephant Census in Tanzania
START: 2014

The Great Elephant Census, funded by Paul G. Allen, was launched in early 2014 as an ambitious initiative to survey all of Africa's elephant range states, with the view that accurate and reliable data on elephant numbers and distribution is needed for long-term conservation management plans. FZS was chosen as a partner to coordinate the Tanzania component of the Great Elephant Census.

Using funds from Paul G. Allen, FZS supported its Tanzanian partners the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI), Wildlife Division (WD) and Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), in the implementation of the Tanzanian component of the Great Elephant Census. From May to November 2014, field activities were conducted using four aircraft, four field observer crews, a ground crew, and TAWIRI/FZS coordination and support teams. FZS also provided a pilot and aircraft.

By the end of 2014, the team successfully completed surveys in the Serengeti-Mara, Tarangire-Manyara, Katavi-Rukwa, Burigi-Birahamulo, Malagarasi-Muyovozi, Selous-Mikumi and Ruaha-Rungwa ecosystems, totally 261,806 km², covering about 27.7% of Tanzania and the majority of the country's protected areas.

In December 2014, TAWIRI and FZS began the process of cataloguing and analysing the data, which will continue with report writing in 2015. Preliminary reports for all seven surveyed areas, including elephant population estimates and carcass numbers, were released in June 2015.

TANZANIA

Reconciling Conservation and Rural Development

PROJECT: Serengeti Ecosystem Management
START: 2005

Despite living adjacent to protected areas, local communities often do not receive sufficient benefits from the area's protection to create an incentive for conservation. Nonetheless, communities rely on

natural resources for their livelihoods and thus play a critical role in the sustainability of the ecosystem. Serengeti Ecosystem Management (SEMA) seeks win-win solutions to conservation and development challenges by empowering local communities to engage in and benefit from the conservation of wildlife and other natural resources, and to promote conservation-compatible livelihoods.

In 2014, with financial support from the EU, SEMA continued its efforts to support and improve the management of two community Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in the Serengeti ecosystem through building capacity for good governance and transparency. In particular, Memorandums of Understanding between SEMA and these respective WMAs were signed, providing a formalisation of our relationship and improved accountability on both sides. In addition, WMA Village Game Scouts (VGS) were trained on natural resources and threat monitoring. Five new Community Conservation Bank (COCOBA) micro-finance groups were formed in member villages of Makao WMA.

A new major project with funding from KfW was signed, along with the formulation of the Serengeti Conservation for Development Challenge: a mechanism to improve the equitability and transparency of the allocation of benefits to communities surrounding the park. The launch included a multi-stakeholder workshop to develop the selection criteria, which will be used for awarding infrastructure benefits to communities in return for positive conservation outcomes.



Bee-keeping is one way of generating an environmentally friendly income.



Mahale National Park inhabits ten species of primates. The chimpanzees are of course the main attraction.

Through financial support from KfW, community efforts to protect water catchment forest areas in Loliondo (outside Serengeti National Park) were strengthened through training of Village Forest Scouts (VFS). FZS established a stronger presence in the area with new staff and an office. The Loliondo communities also requested that FZS assist with demarcation of the Sarian Forest boundaries. Through a challenging exercise with daily negotiations led by our new Technical Advisor, Dr Kunei, the exercise resulted in an increase in forest conservation area of about 25%. Communities took initiative to evict farms within the forest. SEMA also facilitated beekeeping training and provided equipment for the Forest Scouts to initiate an apiary within the forest.

In 2015, we will continue to support local livelihoods and WMAs, and focus on developing and fully implementing the Serengeti Conservation for Development Challenge. A new joint project office with TANAPA and housing for FZS and Serengeti National Park staff will also be constructed using local materials and environmentally-friendly techniques.

TANSANIA

Better Protection for Mahale's Chimpanzees

PROJECT: Conservation in the Mahale Ecosystem

START: 2004

PROJECT AREA: 1,613 km² (park), 19,446 km² (ecosystem)

Mahale Mountains National Park, on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, forms the core of the Greater Mahale Ecosystem: a globally recognised biodiversity hotspot, which is home to East Africa's most important chimpanzee population. For many years the ecosystem has been protected by its remote location, but this situation is rapidly changing. The health of this diverse natural environment and the well-being of its people are threatened from extreme poverty compounded by a rapidly growing human population. FZS is working in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, Pathfinder International, the Jane Goodall Institute and Tanzania National Parks to support the management, monitoring and protection of Mahale Mountains National Park with a holistic ecosystem-wide Population, Health and Environment (PHE) approach, that seeks to synergistically address challenges in natural resource management and human health.

In 2014, FZS continued support for park management, including the provision of a patrol boat to monitor protection of the park's important lake habitat.

In the wider ecosystem, FZS continued to provide financial and technical support to the gazette process of priority chimpanzee habitat. At the end of 2014, a significant decision by the local government regarding village boundaries, cleared the way for the proposed “Tongwe West” forest reserve gazette process to continue. Recently, FZS has also supported 12 villages to gazette village forest reserves totalling an area of 104,000 hectares. In 2014, training and capacity building to strengthen village forest management has resulted in improved village government administration of the modest revenues received from village forests. The Tuungane project has trained an additional 19 village forest scouts at Pasiansi Wildlife Training Institute and procured patrol equipment for 58 forest scouts.

The Community Conservation Bank (COCOBA) network expanded in the villages adjacent to Mahale Mountains National Park with 58 COCOBA groups across 15 villages, a total of 1,516 group members (65% female). The groups have a combined capital of approximately € 340,000 and 808 small business loans have been given. In 2014, FZS began to facilitate groups to increase from micro to medium-sized business projects with conservation compatible business opportunities. Trainers were identified and will commence in 2015.

TANZANIA

Recovering One of the World’s Largest Wilderness Areas

PROJECT: Selous Conservation Project

START: 2012

PROJECT AREA: 54,600 km² (protected area), 100,000 km² (ecosystem)

Selous Game Reserve is one of the largest remaining intact wilderness areas in the world, and once accommodated approximately 40% of Tanzania’s total elephant population. Unfortunately, due to insufficient resources and growing poaching pressures, this elephant population has been dramatically reduced. FZS is working with Tanzania’s Wildlife Division to improve law-enforcement and implement more effective monitoring and management systems, such that security can be restored and the elephants, and other wildlife, can thrive once again.

Despite significant investment from the Wyss Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Vulcan, alongside FZS core funds, implementation of the Selous Conservation Project proved challenging.

Despite these challenges, a number of logistical support activities were completed, including the purchase and deployment of five anti-poaching vehicles to supplement the existing vehicle fleet, the procurement of two boat engines to support the reinstatement of boat patrols along the Rufiji River, and the provision of Avgas for aerial support. In addition, an initiative to develop the Community Based Conservation Training Centre (CBCTC) in Likuyu Sekamaganga was completed. The aim of this project was to build the capacity of the CBCTC to deliver high-quality training to village game scouts. Computer and field equipment was procured for the centre, along with the design of a new curriculum and strategy, and the development of a law enforcement pocket handbook for game scouts.



Community Conservation Banks – small, self-governed cooperative banks – turned out to be very successful in some of our project areas in Tanzania.



Selous Game Reserve is one of the largest protected areas.

In 2015, we will reassess our engagement in Selous Game Reserve, and aim to establish a stronger mandate for our presence in the park.

TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA

Linking Communities with Wildlife Protection

PROJECT: Conservation Research for East Africa's Threatened Ecosystems – CREATE

START: 2011

CREATE investigates key questions on inter-relationships between poverty reduction, human-wildlife conflict, resilience to shocks, and environmental conservation across two ecosystems: North Luangwa in Zambia and Serengeti in Tanzania. The research aims to find effective, long-term solutions for sustaining wildlife, natural resources, and local communities.

2014 saw considerable progress extending research activities and filling research gaps across the five CREATE case studies. Seven MSc students completed fieldwork, six in Zambia and one in Tanzania. Research by four PhD students is continuing. Collectively the research is increasing indispensable information for stakeholders, including ZAWA, TAWIRI, TANAPA and local communities, within the two ecosystems. A workshop for researchers, advisors, project partners, and staff was held in May 2014, and explored probable areas of impact for project outputs as well as dissemination activities to pursue in 2015.

ZAMBIA

Protecting Zambia's Largest Elephant Herd and Only Rhino Population

PROJECT: North Luangwa Conservation Project

START: 1986

PROJECT AREA: 4,636 km² (park), 55,000 km² (ecosystem)

The North Luangwa Ecosystem, comprising the National Park and its five surrounding Game Management Areas, is a large tract of pristine wilderness, which boasts breath-taking landscapes, iconic species and serves as a critical source of ecosystem services. FZS has been working in North Luangwa for nearly thirty years, primarily supporting protected area management and law enforcement, with a particular focus on the protection of Zambia's largest elephant population, and the reintroduction and ongoing security of Zambia's only black rhino population. At the same time, FZS aims to ensure the area is sustainably managed and generating benefits that contribute to the long-term security and resilience of local communities.

In 2014, the North Luangwa Conservation Project continued its role to support the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) in the management of North Luangwa National Park (NLNP) and its adjoining Game Management Areas (GMAs), an operational area of ±22,000 km², covering most of the North Luangwa Ecosystem (NLE).

Within the park, 27 ZAWA base camps were supported with patrol rations in order to carry out basic wildlife protection duties. Radio networks were maintained as well as over 100 handheld radios and management infrastructure, including patrol roads and airstrip. Fuel was provided to ZAWA sectors for operations and the FZS aircraft was flown for approximately 275 hours for aerial operations and logistical support.

Ten ZAWA officers completed field operational intelligence training, and twelve ZAWA officers received external specialised training. In addition, 51 Degrees returned in 2014 (following the 2013 Law Enforcement Review) to train 36 ZAWA officers in advanced tactical training and to establish the Rhino and Elephant Protection Unit aimed at tackling increasing poaching threats. Eight officers from this group were selected and trained as paramedics and the top ten were trained on a 10-day commanders course. All 36 were issued with specialised equipment for their clandestine patrols including spotting scopes, thermal image monoculars and mobile radio solar chargers. Six investigation officers were also equipped with complete crime scene kits and computers.

Significant efforts were invested in protecting North Luangwa's black rhino population. In particular, a new 36 kilometre patrol road was opened to counter the poaching threat to the southwest of the rhino area; this combined with other strategies has reduced poaching in the area due to improved management and reaction access. Seventeen black rhinos were immobilised in annual operations to fit telemetry devices and three black rhino calves were born. The population currently stands at thirty-three.

Lolesha Luangwa, NLCP's conservation education initiative, conducted park visits for schools from neighbouring communities, disseminated educational materials, and carried out numerous educational events including one teachers' workshop and three Conservation Celebration Days. A vehicle was purchased for the programme and two permanent houses were constructed for teachers at Lufila School, which services one of the most remote communities and ZAWA school children on the northeastern border of the Park.

Pivotal meetings were held with the local community and traditional leadership to establish a clear vision for the North Luangwa Ecosystem that would address their participatory decision-making and equitable revenue disbursement.

Considerable time was dedicated to discussion and development of an agreement between USAID and FZS to establish a five-year funding support grant to primarily address community-based natural resource management in the GMAs and law enforcement strategies across the entire ecosystem.

In 2015, we will continue our core park-support activities, whilst also looking at establishing new management models for the park. In particular, we will work on renewing the park's general management plan, whilst also working with experts to develop a more transparent, equitable and financially sustainable business model for the North Luangwa Ecosystem.



The wild beauty of North Luangwa National Park in Zambia.



Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe is home to a growing elephant population.

ZIMBABWE

An Integral Part of the World's Largest Conservation Area

PROJECT: Gonarezhou Conservation Project

START: 2007

PROJECT AREA: 5,053 km² (park), 100,000 km² (ecosystem)

Gonarezhou National Park is the second largest national park in Zimbabwe, comprising spectacular scenery and accommodating a globally-significant population of African elephant. The park also forms an integral part of one of the largest conservation areas in the world – Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area, which joins 100,000 km² of the most iconic national parks of Zimbabwe, Mozambique and South Africa. FZS began working in Gonarezhou National Park to secure the area at a time of economic crisis and instability in Zimbabwe. Today, our support includes protected area planning, increasing the effectiveness of law-enforcement, improving and maintaining infrastructure, providing equipment, increasing ecological knowledge, and developing tourism.

In 2014, the Gonarezhou Conservation Project (GCP) continued its supportive role in the management of Gonarezhou National Park (GNP). The overarching objective of the project is the effective conservation and management of the park in partnership with the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA). With provision of equipment, rations, training and support to operating costs throughout the year, a number of significant conservation outcomes were achieved.

The 2014 aerial survey, conducted by the Gonarezhou Conservation Project under the auspices of the Paul G. Allen Great Elephant Census, resulted in the highest ever recorded elephant population estimate for the park, with a figure of 11,361 animals.

The lion population in Gonarezhou also continued to show a steady increase, and there are now an estimated 116 lions in the park. This is the highest the lion population has been since the start of the monitoring project in 2009, and is encouraging for the species recovery. Wild dog numbers have also shown a steady increase in this time, with the current estimate standing at 208 wild dogs. The trend for spotted hyena remains a slow but steady increase.

Fire management has significantly improved. A combination of firebreaks and early burns contributed to the ability of staff to control fires incoming over the park boundaries – specifically from the frequent and very large uncontrolled fires advancing from Mozambique and those started through anthropogenic means in the park's interior. It is the third consecutive year of significant and comparatively low fire incidence during the park's hot, dry season, when habitats are most severely affected.

In 2015, we will continue to support the park through technical support, training and provision of resources, whilst also developing a new business model for the park: The Gonarezhou Trust. The Trust will provide additional financial resources while also improving management and decision-making. Ultimately, it will address staffing issues, tourism development, community engagement and the successful implementation of a Rhino Intensive Protection Zone leading to eventual reintroduction.

MORE ROOM FOR SUCCESS

Preserving wilderness and creating new wild spaces is a major emphasis of the FZS's programmes in Germany and Eastern Europe. An interview with Michael Brombacher, Head of the FZS Europe Programme.



Mr. Brombacher, how would you define success in nature conservation?

Successful conservation has to be measurable and above all long-term. Only then have third-party funds, donations, and FZS funds been effectively invested. These are the things that guide the FZS when we carefully plan our projects and their funding. In order to preserve habitats and species, we need “to have impact on the ground” – like the creation of new nature conservation areas or the purchase of forest.

What does this mean for your work in the Europe department?

By protecting as much land as possible – areas in which nature is allowed to develop according to its own laws without human intervention – we make an important contribution to preserving Europe’s natural heritage. Brown bear, wolf, and lynx require large areas into which they can withdraw and remain undisturbed by humans. But even less spectacular species, such as beetles that need deadwood for food and breeding, require protected habitats. They are not very mobile and depend on what specialists call “habitat continuity,” in this case a sufficiently large number of old trees in their immediate vicinity. A managed forest cannot offer this type of continuity – only wilderness can.

Did we see this kind of success in 2014?

Yes. Large areas where wilderness will be preserved or will develop were put under long-term protection.

For example, in 2013, just one year after the 500,000 hectare Altyn-Dala Conservation Area was established, the government of Kazakhstan decided to create a 3.6 million hectare safe-haven corridor – initiated and planned by the FZS – for migrating saiga antelopes. The corridor became a reality in 2014. We can also point to progress in the Balkans. In June 2014 we witnessed the creation of the Ohrid Prespa Transboundary Reserve, a new UNESCO biosphere reserve. It covers 440,000 hectares and encompasses three national parks.

Particularly in Germany, it is often difficult to argue for “more wilderness.” Did the FZS also make progress at home?

It’s true – we often point our fingers at other countries and demand that they preserve their forested wilderness. As one of the richest nations in the world, however, we are not pulling our weight in Europe in terms of wilderness. Countries that are worse off economically than Germany, such as Ukraine or Belarus, have recognised the value of their natural heritage and are committed to large-scale conservation. That being said, we did gain some wilderness in Germany in 2014. At our Hohe Schrecke project, donations and third-party grants helped us protect another 180 hectares of valuable beech forest as part of an approximately 2,000 hectare wilderness area.

Where do you see the greatest opportunities and challenges for your work in the coming years?

The biggest opportunities – and room for success – lie in the virgin forests of the Ukrainian part of the Carpathian Mountains. The first European sawmills are setting up shop in the region and have begun clear-cutting. The FZS is already working with nine Ukrainian national parks with the goal of expanding their area by a total of 50,000 to 70,000 hectares. In 2014 our project partners completed the required feasibility studies and we also provided a number of the parks with vehicles and other equipment, like binoculars and GPS units. Our programme for Europe must focus on this region in the coming years. It is crucial that we protect, for the long-term, an essential part of Europe’s natural heritage with large virgin forests and important populations of large mammals.

CONSERVATION IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

ALBANIA

Success on the Lakes

PROJECT: Management of Prespa National Park

START: 2010

PROJECT AREA: 248 km²

We are working with local and international partners to preserve and restore sensitive terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in Albania's Prespa National Park. Ecologically sustainable use models are being developed in conjunction with the responsible local ministries.

In June 2014 UNESCO created the 440,000 hectare Ohrid-Prespa Transboundary Biosphere Reserve. This conservation area encompasses large catchment areas of the Ohrid and Prespa lakes. It also offers a framework for the development and maintenance

of large national parks embedded in the biosphere reserve as well as structure for sustainable development in the region. This is one of the reasons for the creation of a marketing organisation for local products. The organisation has been registered and a business model is being formulated.

The annual waterfowl census was completed, providing important data for monitoring in the park. The use of camera traps was also expanded in 2014 to collect additional monitoring data.

At the end of the year, negotiations between the KfW Development Bank and the Albanian Ministry of the Environment began regarding an extension of the existing KfW project dedicated to developing Prespa National Park. The extension is approved and the tender out for another phase.



Lake Prespa is an important breeding and wintering area for the Great White Pelican.



In 2014, 200,000 saiga antelopes lived in the Altyn Dala region. In 2015 a mass die-off wiped out a large proportion of the population; the causes remain unknown to date.

KAZAKHSTAN

Rise and Fall of the Saiga Population

PROJECT: Altyn Dala Steppe Ecosystem and Saiga Conservation

START: 2004

PROJECT AREA: 54,698 km²

The objective of the project is to create a network of protected grassland habitats. There is a special focus on the saiga antelopes of the Betpak Dala population that plays a central role in steppe and semi-desert ecosystems.

About ten years ago the FZS partnered with Kazakhstan and international partners in creating the Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative (ADCI). The goal was to protect the country's expansive steppe landscapes and to preserve a large tract of intact habitat for the saiga, which was threatened with extinction at the time. Our partners felt that this was a very ambitious goal, however, we have achieved several milestones over the last decade. The main saiga antelope population that migrates through the Altyn Dala region has recovered. In 2014 the population was over 200,000.

At the same time, the government of Kazakhstan has created a series of large new conservation areas, and in 2014 a 3.6 million hectare protected corridor for the saiga antelopes was added. The decision to establish the corridor was made in 2013; formalities were finalised last year. The FZS initiated and was involved in the planning of this corridor as well as the previously created conservation areas. We have also supported the new management with equipment (particularly motor vehicles) and ranger training. The first international tourist excursion, a "saiga photo safari," took place last year. Additional trips are being promoted by "Kasachstanreisen" agency. We have also begun planning a wolf monitoring programme, and at the time of the writing of this report, one wolf has already been fitted with a collar transmitter. The project team has been supporting the study of the mass deaths of saigas in recent years and formulated in conjunction with government agencies a protocol for similar events in the future. These preparations proved to be useful in May 2015 when a new wave of fatalities claimed over 150,044 animals, wiping out 70 to 80% of the Betpak Dala population. Scientists were able to move quickly and take samples on location. The cause of this deadly phenomenon is still unclear and continues to be investigated.



The species composition of the bat community reveals a lot about the structure of old growth forests.

Plans to begin reintroducing Przewalski horses last year had to be deferred for another year. The postponement is due to delays in registering the species with the Kazakhstan Red List of Threatened Species and in producing the feasibility study required to create an effective plan.

BELARUS

Bat Research in Old Growth Forest

PROJECT: Bialowiesza Forest Conservation Project

START: 2012

PROJECT AREA: 1,520 km²

The objective is to secure the long-term protection of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha Wilderness in Belarus, one of the largest expanses of European wilderness. In conjunction with the park administration we are working to return the area to its original state free of human intervention.

The 150,000 hectare Bialowiesza Forest (on the Polish side) and Belovezhskaya Pushcha Forest (on the Belarus side) comprise one of Europe's most well-known forests. For hundreds of years the area was used as a hunting ground for kings and tsars and – with the exception of the period during the two world wars –

and was thus, largely spared from logging. As a consequence, a forest with an impressively dense concentration of deadwood has developed, providing important habitat for birds, bats, bugs, insects and fungi.

In the Belarus part of the forest, the FZS supports the national park administration in rehabilitating drained fen mire areas and disturbed river courses. The initial feasibility study was created in 2014, and is the formal requirement and basis for the practical work of restoration, which is slated to begin in 2016. Last year we partnered with colleagues from Belarus in initiating a research project on bats.

The goal of the bat census is to determine whether the presence of specific bat species or groups of species indicate different stages in the development of unmanaged forest wilderness. In addition, the species diversity data for Bialowiesza/Belovezhskaya Pushcha provide both national park administrations with arguments for protecting the forest areas. We were not able to begin the implementation of the planned wilderness research center in 2014. Our priority for the moment is the renovation and expansion of the FZS project office as well as the selection and training of young local scientists who will conduct bat research and monitoring using camera traps. The creation of an administrative framework for the wilderness research centre will be developed in the coming years.

GERMANY

Wilderness on Former Military Training Grounds

PROJECT: Wildlife Protection in Brandenburg

START: 1998

PROJECT AREA: 128 km²

The Brandenburg Wilderness Foundation (Stiftung Naturlandschaften Brandenburg, SNB), which was co-founded by the FZS, purchased large former military training grounds for conversion into tomorrow's wilderness areas. Our goal is to preserve the lands owned by the Foundation as wilderness and to expand these areas through additional land purchases. We are also working to create a national park at the Lieberoser Heide, a heath area near the city of Cottbus.

The Brandenburg Wilderness Foundation is still among the most important and credible wilderness initiatives in Germany. Presiding over 13,000 hectares, the SNB is the largest private owner of land dedicated to the idea of wilderness. Large military training sites are being reconquered by nature; pioneer tree species, such as birch and young pine, are now growing where tanks used to roll. This is the wilderness of the future. The SNB regrouped at a strategic meeting held in March 2014 and has adopted a new approach.

Members resolved to create a fulltime executive office, which has been filled in May 2015. It was also decided that the SNB would attempt to secure large expanses of land outside of Brandenburg for wilderness development. The SNB also recommitted to implementing the wilderness concept on existing lands and pledged to increase its efforts by removing more paths, further restricting hunting, and putting a stop to forest conversion for profit.

The process of rehabilitating bog areas at the Lieberose site continued last year. Piling walls were removed and drainage ditches filled in order to rehydrate the ground. The revitalised bogs are very important for water retention, climate and vegetation. The bogs also offer habitat for countless animal and plant species. They are particularly valuable as a stepping stone biotope for migrating animal species, such as elk, and comprise an essential part of the foundation's Southern Brandenburg Ecological Corridor project.

GERMANY

From Commercial Forest to Wilderness

PROJECT: Hohe Schrecke Beech Forest Conservation Project

START: 2009

PROJECT AREA: 70 km²

The objective is to preserve the Hohe Schrecke forest area in Thuringia as a forest of national importance. 25% of the forest is to be secured as a wilderness area.

Hohe Schrecke is a circa 7,300 hectare contiguous forest area with very old and natural tree populations. It is located in northern Thuringia and borders the federal state of Sachsen-Anhalt. In 2014 several pieces of land in the centrally located Wiegental were secured for wilderness development. With the help of a donation received by the FZS specifically for this purpose, the David Nature Foundation purchased the Artern municipal forest in fall 2013. This marks a total of 73 hectares belonging to the



By 2020, 5% of Germany's forests will be allowed to develop naturally.

Federal Government passed into the hands of the David Nature Foundation in the context of Germany's "National Nature Heritage" programme. After minor modifications, the forest will no longer be commercially used. Negotiations were held with a private forest owner regarding the potential purchase of another 15.8 hectares in the greater Wiegental area; a forest assessment was also undertaken in this context. The contract was signed in early 2015. In order to have data and concrete arguments available for discussions with hunters and owners of hunting ground concessions, 20 fenced sample areas were set up to demonstrate the process of natural forest regeneration. Another 25 enclosures are scheduled to be erected over the course of the year. After extensive consultations with local governments and interest groups, the David Nature Foundation has also created a footpath plan. It contains nature experience trails for future tourist management in the Wiegental area. The plan will be implemented in 2015.

In the area of public relations, our project partners published, among other things, two journals that went to all households in the region. Electronic versions were also disseminated over an ever-expanding email list. Many guided excursions into the Hohe Schrecke were also conducted.

GERMANY

More Wilderness for Germany

PROJECT: Wilderness in Germany
START: 2012

The FZS is supporting the German Government's goal that by 2020 nature will be allowed to unfold according to its own processes on at least 2% of the country's area and that 5% of forested areas will also be allowed to develop naturally. In this spirit, we are also working to preserve wilderness areas by purchasing land and ensuring that it is properly protected (as national parks for instance). Through public relations and outreach, we hope to draw attention to the issue of wilderness and to promote public and scientific debate.

In the context of the project, which has been led by Manuel Schweiger since July 2014, we have been directing our efforts toward creating more wilderness in Germany. Last year coordinating activities among agencies and organisations led to a multi-party funding application to the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz, BfN) for a "Wilderness Communication Project." We received positive notifi-

cation in spring 2015. In preparing the application we collaborated with other organisations on designing a communications strategy. As of July 2015, a new team member has been assigned with implementing the plan, which includes creating a wilderness website. We also succeeded in ensuring that the topic of wilderness will be one of the issues on the agenda of the German Nature Conservation Circle (Deutscher Naturschutzring) strategy group devoted to conservation areas. The FZS and David Nature Foundation have been designated as contact organisations. In partnership with the Gregor Louisoder Environmental Foundation (Gregor Louisoder Umweltstiftung), the FZS has commissioned a study to identify potential wilderness areas in Germany. In the meantime a comprehensive map of Germany has been produced, and the FZS will use it as a basis for taking decisions on future project regions to flank our efforts at Hohe Schrecke and the lands of the Brandenburg Wilderness Foundation. In this way, the FZS is contributing to the German Government's goal of achieving 2% land area coverage as wilderness in the country by 2020. We are pleased to report on initial progress on this front in 2014.

Following the signing of an agreement between the states of Saarland and Rheinland-Pfalz in 2014, Hunsrück-Hochwald National Park was inaugurated in May 2015. The FZS was a consistent promoter of the plan to create the park, working with Friends of Hunsrück National Park (Freundeskreis Nationalpark Hunsrück e. V.) and the responsible parties in the ministry in Rheinland-Pfalz. We created informational content and provided corresponding practical examples for the future online portal "What you need to know about National Parks" (Wissen Nationalpark). The site will go live in 2015.

ROMANIA

A Yellowstone for Europe

PROJECT: Creation of a Wilderness Conservation Area in Romania
START: 2012
PROJECT AREA: 1,000 km²

Europe's most important wilderness areas are located in the forested regions of the Carpathian Mountains. We are working in partnership with Fundatia Conservation Carpathia to protect 60,000 hectares of natural forest in and around Piatra Craiului (Prince's Stone) for the long-term. The creation of a private conservation area will complement the conservation measures of the Romanian government.



Unique wilderness – the Leaota Mountains in the Romanian Carpathians.

The goal of Fundatia Conservation Carpathia (FCC), whose efforts are supported by the FZS, is to establish a “Yellowstone” in the heart of Europe. The Romanian Carpathians on the border of Transylvania and the historical Walachia region encompass large, and for the most part, intact wilderness areas, particularly spruce forest. With the help of private donors, the FCC was able to purchase 20,000 hectares of this forest by the end of 2014. The plan is to acquire another 40,000 to 80,000 hectares in the coming years. The FCC is also seeking to secure hunting concessions in order to put an end to hunting on all of the lands it owns. In 2014 the process was initiated to take over management of the Fagaras Conservation Area (200,000 hectares), a NATURA 2000 site. The administrative transfer will most likely be completed in 2015. In order to finance the architectural planning of the Carpathia Centre – the future headquarters of the FCC as well as a visitor information centre – we submitted a funding request. The 2014 application was approved in January 2015.

UKRAINE

Opportunities to Expand Parkland

PROJECT: Protection of Primary Forest in the Ukraine Portion of the Carpathians

START: 2013

PROJECT AREA: 1,859 km²

In conjunction with nine national park administrations and our Ukrainian project partner, Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds, we are working to preserve and protect from logging the last intact forest wilderness areas in Europe’s temperate zone. Our goal is to expand the nine existing national parks in the Ukrainian Carpathians with valuable forest areas as well as to strengthen different park administrations.

The last intact temperate forests in Europe are located in the Carpathian Mountains. They are among the most biodiverse forest wilderness areas on the European continent. In order to preserve these virgin forests, nine national parks and two biosphere reserves have already been created in the Ukrainian part of the



Home for bears – the wild forests of the Ukrainian Carpathians.

Carpathians. Due to a lack of equipment and training, however, it has been difficult to effectively protect the areas. The park administrations must be confident that good work is being done if previously unprotected, larger wilderness areas are to be added to their administrative umbrella. Because the privatisation of public lands continues, it is important to act quickly. These unprotected areas must be saved before they are sold.

In order to react to these challenges, in 2014 the FZS initiated a new project in the Ukrainian Carpathians that was developed in collaboration with local project partners. The main objective of the project is to expand, with valuable forest areas, existing major conservation areas in the Carpathian Mountains of Ukraine. The second focus is to support the national park administrations in order to secure for the long-term that the conservation areas are effectively monitored and managed.

In 2014 our Ukrainian partners were occupied with identifying suitable expanses of forest to augment the existing nine national parks that are participating in the project. On the basis of existing data and maps as well as additional field studies, they documented the age distribution, percentage of deadwood, and species inventory of the potential expansion areas. About 12,000

hectares of forest wilderness were identified as containing in part very rare forest types and species communities. The scientists also discovered that over 27% of the wilderness within the planned expansion areas have been converted into commercial forest in recent years. This discovery underscores the urgent need to quickly protect wilderness areas by increasing the size of the national park by circa 50,000 to 70,000 hectares. The applications to expand the protected areas have already been submitted to Ukraine's Ministry for Ecology and Natural Resources and are currently under review.

Carpathian Mountains National Park is Ukraine's largest national park, and in 2014 we established a project office and hired a regional project coordinator. All-terrain vehicles, cameras, binoculars, and GPS equipment was also purchased and handed over to the responsible parties at the national park. In 2015 additional parks were provided with much-needed equipment and a ranger station is being built. The process of expanding two parks began in spring 2015.



Characteristic old-growth beech forests mark the national parks in the Ukrainian Carpathians.

PARTNER FOR MAJOR WILDERNESS REGIONS

Including third-party funds, in 2014 the FZS invested approximately € 1.2 million in South America and € 650,000 in Southeast Asia. We spoke with Dr Antje Müllner, head of our South America and Southeast Asia Department.



Dr Müllner, why is the FZS committed to selected countries in South America and Southeast Asia?

The tropical belts of South America and Southeast Asia are havens for the most biologically diverse areas in the world. Fortunately, both regions still contain large, pristine forests and savannahs, and a relatively comprehensive conservation system has been developed.

What makes the conservation areas in South America so special?

The sheer dimensions and isolation of these areas in South America are inconceivable to us in Europe and outclass Asia by some margin. Chiribiquete National Park in Colombia, for instance, is almost the size of Belgium; the adjoining conservation areas of Manú, Alto Purús, and Megantoni in Peru add up to 45,000 km² – an area larger than Switzerland. And in both areas, there are still indigenous groups living without contact to the outside world.

What is the goal of the FZS projects in these two areas that lie so far apart geographically?

We want to preserve extraordinary and wild natural habitats supporting a rich animal and plant world. We focus our work on large conservation areas as a starting point with specific “anchors.” This is why over the past ten years we have undertaken a continuous restructuring of our programmes in South America and Southeast Asia. We have been moving away from small, species protection projects in favour of fewer, more comprehensive landscape conservation projects. The FZS is usually present on site with its own personnel.

Who are the partners of the FZS's projects in the project countries?

Because the focus of our work is the support of conservation areas, as a rule we work in close cooperation with conservation area administrations. But depending on local circumstances, we also partner with school administrations, forestry agencies, health ministries, indigenous bodies, and local and regional governments. As a guest in these countries, we respect local processes and are connected to administrative procedures and jurisdictions. This often means that project development takes a long time and is often fraught with delays, requiring patience and perseverance. But these cooperations also foster capacity-building with our national partners and thus, ultimately, aid in the sustainability of our work, since new issues and approaches then often become institutionalised.

Civil society and semigovernmental organisations involved in development, like the Society for Technical Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, GIZ) and KfW, have become important partners. Increasingly, we are creating formal alliances in developing and carrying out projects, as well as in applying for third-party funding.

Are there new projects in your portfolio?

Last year, following a long period of preparation, our project in Guyana launched. And we started a new initiative in Colombia.

CONSERVATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

INDONESIA

Prospects for More Forest for Orangutans

PROJECT: Bukit Tigapuluh Programme

START: 2000

PROJECT AREA: 2,500 km²

The Bukit Tigapuluh ecosystem represents the largest contiguous lowland rainforest on Sumatra and offers a home to charismatic mammals like Sumatran elephants, Sumatran tigers, and in recent years once again Sumatran orangutans. At the core of our Bukit Tigapuluh Programme is the preservation of habitat for wildlife in and outside the national park. Our efforts have developed over the past few years into a comprehensive landscape conservation programme with many different components.



Orangutan reintroduction lies at the heart of our Bukit Tigapuluh Programme.

2014 marked the start of a new partnership with the WWF to support the management of the future Ecosystem Restoration Concession (ERC) located south of Bukit Tigapuluh National Park and underwritten by Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Infrastructure and Nuclear Security (Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, Bau und Reaktorsicherheit, BMUB) via KfW. It was complicated and difficult to recruit additional personnel for "Ristorasi Ekosistem Bukit Tigapuluh." Nonetheless, most of the planned activities have now begun. These include improving agroforestry methods with the help of farmer field schools on ERC lands, reforestation, surveying and marking community boundaries, as well as controlling ERC territory. In October 2014, the non-profit company, PT Alam Bukit Tigapuluh, which will be the formal leaseholder of the ERC, received the licence for approximately 39,000 hectares of natural forest. The final license has been granted in July 2015.

In addition to our efforts in managing the ERC lands, we continued to support the rehabilitation of orangutans. In 2014 seven orangutans were released that had successfully completed the jungle school. The trained orangutans have now all been outfitted with radio transmitters so that their development can be better monitored. The release programme has been underway for twelve years now and over 160 orangutans have returned to the wild. Things look encouraging for the orangutan population in Bukit Tigapuluh as long as the remaining forest does not diminish further. The situation of the elephant population, on the other hand, is precarious, with the few fragmented groups all living outside the boundaries of the park. The massive conversion of natural forest into plantations and crop fields around Bukit Tigapuluh drives animals into the cultivated areas, creating conflict situations with people. Last year we unfortunately again witnessed the poisoning of elephants; two animals were killed. Our human-elephant conflict mitigation programme had been successful for a number of years in promoting coexistence of people and elephants, but at present the situation is once again critical.

Environmental education is an important complement to our project that helps us maintain regular contact with local communities. In 2014 members of our project team visited 39 village schools in Bukit Tigapuluh and raised the issue of nature conservation in the context of classroom instruction, lectures, and exhibits. With the support of our Australian partners from The Orangutan Project, the FZS education team also began organising pen pals between school children from the Talang-Mamak Semerantihan community and a primary school in Australia.

VIETNAM

More Focus on Kon Ka Kinh

PROJECT: Vietnam Primate Conservation Programme

START: 2010

PROJECT AREA: 450 km²

Vietnam's central mountain region still contains large, unfragmented forest areas in a country that is otherwise densely populated and intensively farmed. These forests represent important havens for a rich world of flora and fauna and species that are rare in other places. For four years the FZS has been supporting the management of Kon Ka Kinh National Park by controlling and managing the territory covered by the park.

The FZS project office is located in coastal Danang City, and a vital and productive partnership with the local university is being established. Last year we facilitated and intensified contacts between national park and university, and since 2014 researchers have been conducting studies in Kon Ka Kinh National Park regularly. Since it has remained almost completely unknown, even simple species lists are lacking for many animals – with the exception of primates and birds. The regular presence of students in the park motivates both rangers and the park administration and has the

added benefit of helping to further protect the park against illegal activities.

Last year we provided, among other things, equipment for rangers (binoculars, GPS units, computers) as well as supplementary food for the multi-day patrols. We also supported several training courses for rangers on data collection, wildlife identification, and equipment training. Now the monthly reports written by the rangers also include information on wildlife sightings. With the computers and the database that was set up with the help of the FZS a year ago, it is now possible to enter protocols directly following the patrols. Environmental education activities are geared toward supporting the park's educational department and its efforts to disseminate information in local villages and foster understanding about wild animals and ecological issues. For the first time since the founding of the park 13 years ago, three school classes visited the park with their teachers! This excursion and exchange was regarded as a great success by park employees and there are plans for similar events in the future.

In 2014 a booklet on Kon Ka Kinh National Park was published to increase the visibility of the area and to increase regional and national awareness. There was also a television report on the park and its "flagship" species, the gray-shanked douc langur.



Students from Danang University studying the flora and fauna of Kon Ka Kinh National Park.

CONSERVATION IN SOUTH AMERICA

BRAZIL

New Dolphin Species in the Cantão Protected Area

PROJECT: Support of Cantão Protected Area

START: 2013

PROJECT AREA: 900 km²

FZS funding supports our Brazilian partner organisation, Associação Instituto Araguaia, in maintaining a small research and monitoring station. We also finance private rangers and patrols and work closely with the park administration.

Our support of the Cantão Protected Area in the southeastern Amazon region went into its second year in 2014. The 90,000 hectare Cantão State Park represents an important part of a system of several protected areas that together encompass more than two million hectares. The region is one of the richest and significant fresh water ecosystems in the world. Even river dolphins find a home in these fish-filled waters. A recent discovery in January 2014 unveiled that Araguaia river dolphins a separate species from other river dolphins that call home to the Amazon. The newly discovered species occurs only in the Araguaia River that flows through Cantão and its tributaries. The population is threatened, comprising fewer than 1,000 individuals.

Despite the project's short duration, we are pleased to be able to report on early successes. The Associação Instituto Araguaia station is protecting the strategically important eastern entrypoint to the conservation area. Within the sphere of ranger patrols, illegal fishing and poaching have almost ceased entirely. In 2014 we were able to increase the number of rangers to four, with an additional biologist heading the station and serving as the local project leader. Fifteen camera traps were installed in giant otter dens so that the animals can be documented individually. Utilising this new monitoring equipment, we could establish that otters from different families use the same den at different times over the course of a single day. Low-impact tourism is supported by the project to enhance the public visibility of Cantão as well as the acceptance of the conservation area among the local population. In 2013, we supplied the visitor centre at the entrance to the park in the village of Casiare with informational material. In 2014 hiking trails were established along with benches and an observation platform.

GUYANA

Development Aid for a New Conservation Area

PROJECT: Protection of the Kanuku Mountains

START: 2014

PROJECT AREA: 6,600 km²

The goal of the project is to preserve the Kanuku Mountains and assist in the creation of a new conservation area.

The Republic of Guyana in the northeast of South America is almost 80% tropical rainforest and tropical wet savanna that is still very natural and relatively untouched by humans. In addition to having many of the elements of the flora and fauna of the Amazon, Guyana's geologically old mountains (Guyana Shield) are home to biological wonders that are said to have been the inspiration for Conan Doyle's 1912 science fiction novel, *The Lost World*. One reason for the large-scale preservation of natural landscapes is the low level of settlement. With 3.7 million inhabitants per square kilometre, Guyana is South America's least densely populated country (circa 800,000 inhabitants on a total area of 215,000 km²).

In 2011 Guyana's parliament passed a law establishing three conservation areas to be administered by the Protected Areas Commission, a new conservation agency. One of the areas encompasses the 6,000 km² Kanuku Mountains in the southern part of the country. The completely forested Kanuku Mountains reach heights of up to 1,100 metres and are uninhabited by humans. They lie in the heart of the Rapununi Savannah and border in the east directly on large expanses of rainforest. The Kanuku Mountains are one of the most ecologically important areas in Guyana with savannah and riparian forest in the lowlands and rainforest in the mountain zone. A road project, potential oil extraction, and intensifying agriculture around the conservation areas make this region vulnerable. It is important to quickly create structures to solidify the presence of the conservation agency on the local level and to implement controlling and monitoring.

In July 2014, Dr Anouska Kinahan and Thadaigh Baggallay began their assignment as FZS project leaders in Guyana. Both have worked with FZS for many years in Ethiopia's Bale Mountains. Kinahan and Baggallay are supporting the conservation area administration in establishing itself across regions and in strategic development. They have already helped to revise the management plan for the Kanuku Mountains Conservation Area and conducted ranger training in Kaieteur National Park.



Dr Anouska Kinahan and Thadaigh Baggallay had lived and worked in the Bale Mountains in Ethiopia for seven years before moving to Guyana. Here they are setting up our Kanuku Mountains Project.

COLOMBIA

New Commitment in Colombia

PROJECT: Supporting the Community Rangers of Cahuinarí National Park

START: 2014

PROJECT AREA: 5,760 km²

Support of the conservation agency to ensure better control and management of Cahuinarí National Park in southeastern Colombia.

In global comparison, Colombia exhibits an extraordinarily high level of biological diversity. In terms of total number of species in relation to its size, the country ranks second worldwide. The Amazon lowlands in the southeast include large conservation areas with wilderness areas that are largely intact and undisturbed. By establishing in 1993 an environmental ministry – and later the conservation agency Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia – the country has created competent government structures to manage the areas. Unfortunately, the resources available are sometimes insufficient to ensure effective management and control on the ground. These factors represent important criteria for the FZS' commitment of resources to the region.

In Fall 2014, the FZS initiated its funding of the conservation area authority. The objective has been to improve the control and management of Cahuinarí National Park in the southeast of the country. At 576,000 hectares, Cahuinarí National Park is a species-rich, large wilderness area inhabiting indigenous people living in voluntary isolation. The large Río Caquetá forms the northern border of the park and also serves as the gateway to the park. It is the location of indigenous settlements who preside over territorial and use rights. During the dry season, the banks of the Caquetá are clear and support important egg-laying locations for large Arrau river turtles (*Podocnemis expansa*), which have become rare in other places. The presence of these turtles played an important role in establishing the national park. Unfortunately, turtles are being captured and their eggs collected. FZS funding is making it possible for community rangers to be stationed on a rotating basis during the dry season at the river's headwaters, where patrols can secure important sections of the river. This offers protection against illegal gold panners who continue to try to encroach into the park. In the context of the project, members of the park team conduct environmental education activities in local communities where the turtle eggs are consumed.

PERU

From the Andes to the Amazon Lowlands

PROJECT: Andes to Amazon Conservation Programme

START: 2002

PROJECT AREA: 60,000 km²

One of the most biodiverse regions in the world is located where the Andes and the Amazon basin meet in southeastern Peru. The region's unique wilderness areas are also home to indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation without contact to civilisation. In other places, threatened animal species like jaguar, giant otter and spectacled bear enjoy safe havens in large populations.

In this region, the FZS Peru programme supports the control and management of what are now five protected areas that comprise over six million hectares. On a regional level, the programme also does important cross-sectoral work, such as training for park employees and environmental education and public outreach. We also

focus on local issues, such as road construction and the situation of indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation.

The largest individual project in the Peru programme is ProBosque Manú, which is supported with funds from Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Infrastructure and Nuclear Security (Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, Bau und Reaktorsicherheit, BMUB). The objective is to improve forest protection and to ensure the effective management of natural resources. Although the project was only in its second year in 2014, we can already point to progress in several areas. In the spring, ten settler families voluntarily left the Callanga enclave and resettled outside the conservation area. The FZS was there to provide legal, logistic, and material assistance. Callanga is situated in a very isolated part of Manú National Park. Health services and schools are not easily accessible. Located far from streets and markets, it is also impossible to make a profit growing crops. With our help, the resettled families have been able to



Manú National Park is home to the most biodiverse forests on earth.

establish themselves outside the park. They have received land or started small businesses, such as moped taxis. Of the 36 remaining Callanga families, the majority have in the meantime applied to the park administration for “subsidized resettlement.” The agreement means that the families relinquish use rights in the park and the affected areas are rehabilitated and integrated into the park.

In the Andean zone there were also successful negotiations with farming families who have now relinquished their traditional grazing rights inside the park and left with their cattle. Some 2,000 hectares are now free of grazing. So-called “study plots” have been erected so that researchers can observe the regeneration process.

The supplementary education project supported by the Sarastro Foundation has proven to be an important factor in the good partnership with the Matsigenka community in Manú National Park. In cooperation with the park and liaising with school authorities, we were able to support and improve primary school instruction with both educational material and further training for teachers. In 2014/15 a boarding school was established on the border of the park at Boca Manú in order to complement the secondary school. The boarding school was created especially for Matsigenka girls.

The FZS’s environmental education efforts are appreciated in the entire Madre de Dios administrative district and have contributed to raising our profile. The activities of our team in Puerto Maldonado included founding a volunteer group for nature and environmental conservation. In October 2014, the environment volunteers were recognised with the Germany-based Bruno H. Schubert Prize (third class). Local coordinator, Ana Fernandez, accepted the award in Frankfurt on behalf of the group.

There is no established procedure about what to do when isolated indigenous groups – known in Spanish as PIACI (pueblos indígenas en aislamiento voluntario y contacto inicial) – show up inside and outside conservation areas. A general principle when there is contact with such groups is to immediately withdraw and respect their right to live in voluntary isolation. On the other hand, a number of PIACI groups have sought out contact in recent years, although the reasons remain unclear. In 2014 the FZS joined with the WWF in raising the PIACI issue with the Madre de Dios regional government and succeeded in prompting the formulation of a regional plan to protect PIACI. The FZS team is assembling a regional working group that includes representatives of the conservation authority SERNANP, the Ministry of Health, and MINCUL, a cultural agency responsible for PIACI.

PERU

Voluntary withdrawal of grazing displays community desire for conservation

On 24 March three local families, park guards and FZS Peru staff met to remove 46 cattle from the highlands of Manú National Park. Some 18,000 hectares of the highlands were burned and grazed long before the park was created, and the park recognised the rights of those grazing this area. There has been an uneasy relationship with the park with conflicts about restrictions of access, problems with Pumas and Andean Bears, and fires getting out of control.

Three families held grazing rights covering an area of some 2,150 hectares. The grazing density of their cattle was very low, but other people also grazed cattle here and it was hard for park guards to know to whom they belonged and so many more cattle were grazed in the area. In March 2014 these three families have voluntarily renounced their grazing rights, so there can no longer be any legal grazing and the job of the park guards is simplified. Total protection of the 2,150 hectares should now be possible.

The three families were paid a very good price for the cattle. They will also now start to work with the park as voluntary communal park guards. In this role they will patrol the area they know and ensure other cattle are not grazing there and also work with the professional park guards. This is the first time ancestral rights in a protected area have voluntarily been given up in Peru. This is setting a precedent that win-win solutions can be found and many other protected areas are looking at this experience and rethinking the conflicts that so often arise with local people who hold these rights.



For the first time, families in Peru renounced their traditional grazing rights for the benefit of conservation.

A GOOD FOUNDATION



*Florian Becker-Gitschel is
 FZS Head of Finance.*

Low interest rates continue to confront foundations with challenges.

We spoke with Florian Becker-Gitschel, head of the financial division at FZS headquarters in Frankfurt.

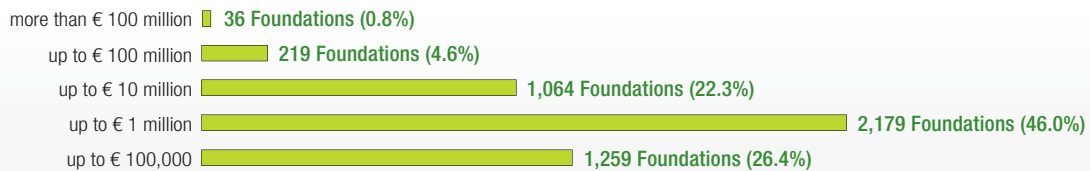
Mr. Becker-Gitschel, 2014 was another year of low interest rates. What does that mean for foundations?

Most of the long-term, high-yield bonds owned directly by foundations have either matured or been bought back and must now be reinvested at lower yields. The trend on the stock and bond market is still very positive. In the mid-term, we can expect continued low interest rates. For this reason, it will be increasingly important to adapt our investment strategy and continue to diversify our revenue streams.

Does this mean that small foundations whose revenue is derived solely from fixed-interest securities will have great difficulty in fulfilling their mission in the future?

I'm afraid that due to the market situation, the foundation model is becoming less and less attractive for small organisations. It is becoming clear to donors that establishing an endowment with a limited amount of capital will not result in a viable entity. This situation brings with it an opportunity for the FZS and the Help for Threatened Wildlife Foundation, since potential donors may be more inclined to make regular donations or to make their contributions to existing or dependent foundations.

GERMAN FOUNDATIONS AND THEIR CAPITAL



72.4% of all German foundations possess a capital of up to € 1 million at most. With its foundation capital of approx. € 43 million our Help for Threatened Wildlife Foundation is amongst the top 6% of significantly large foundations in Germany.

Source: Bundesverband Deutscher Stiftungen

Do you see other possibilities?

Yes. One option is for existing foundations that share a common mission to join together in a kind of umbrella foundation. This offers smaller foundations the security of being managed in a professional way and allows them a critical mass needed to earn the revenue required to fulfill their mission. The legalities in Germany around such fusions between foundations remains complicated – as is the requisite conversion from an independent foundation to a dependent trust. But it is possible that lawmakers will recognise the difficult situation smaller foundations are facing and make an effort to accommodate changes. The creation of limited-term trusts that has become possible today is a reflection of the effort to support foundations under new conditions.

Is the FZS's foundation ready for the changes that are happening?

Can we incorporate other foundations?

The FZS took early steps to establish the necessary structures. In 2001 we founded the Help for Threatened Wildlife Foundation and later we amended the statute to allow for the incorporation of dependent foundations. In the meantime, the Wetland Bird Protection Foundation (Stiftung Vogelschutz in Feuchtgebieten) has been incorporated and we also co-manage the independent Johanna Samel-Foundation.

Has our “society plus foundation” model proven to be successful?

Yes, the model of an operational society linked to a foundation has proven itself in practice over the past several years. It offers donors, bequeathers, and sponsors different ways of supporting our work. A look back at the assets of the Society and Foundation – as an expression of our financial situation in general – shows a steady and positive trend that ensures we will continue to be able to sustainably fulfill our mission in the future. In general, the total assets of the Society and Foundation amounted to about € 83.84 million last year, 3.92% more than in 2013 (€ 80.2 million).

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2014

HELP FOR THREATENED WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

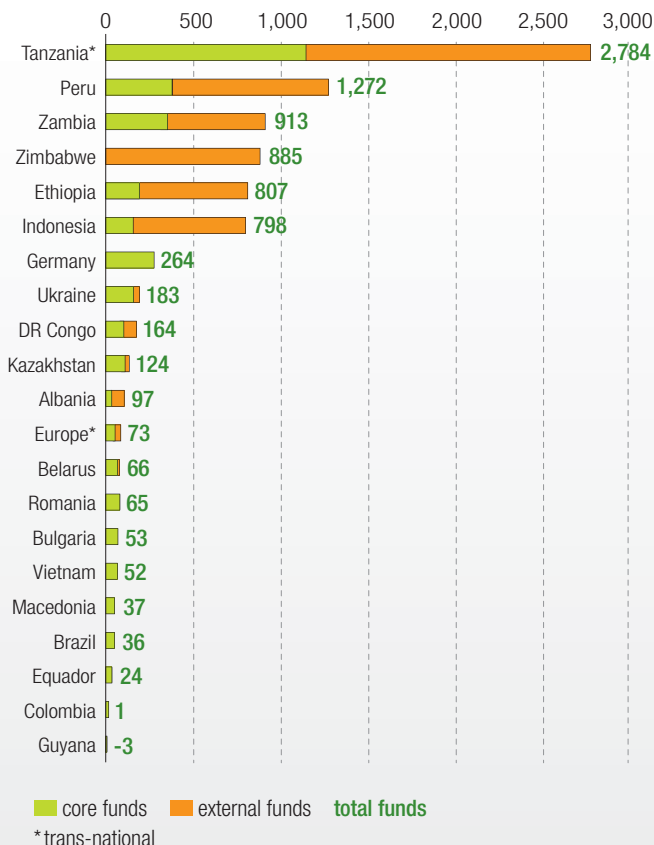
Last year the Help for Threatened Wildlife Foundation contributed in accord with its mission € 1,574,890.87 to the FZS's conservation efforts (2013: € 1,702,265.39). This total does not include disbursements from the Munich-based Eleonore-Beck-Foundation, which amounted to € 500,000. As is the case with other foundations, the Eleonore Beck Foundation has experienced falling returns as a consequence of continued low interest rates. Consequently, beginning in 2015, the Eleonore Beck Foundation will only be able to pay out € 500,000 euros annually. Nonetheless, contributions from the Foundation are an important revenue stream for our conservation work. Not only are the dis-

bursements considerable, they are reliable, and flexible. They play a particularly important role in covering our commitments – particularly in the case of applications for external funding.

Deriving from distributable income, the Foundation's creation of reserves remains at the previous maximum of 33.3%. This reserve creation offers additional flexibility given the reality of declining revenues. This is particularly important under conditions of continued low interest rates and a situation in which the endowment increases due to unrealised and non-distributable market gains and donations. With a reserve creation rate of 33.3% in 2014, the Foundation will be in a position to contribute € 1,411,340.12 to the FZS's conservation work in 2015.

2014 PROJECT FUNDING BY COUNTRY

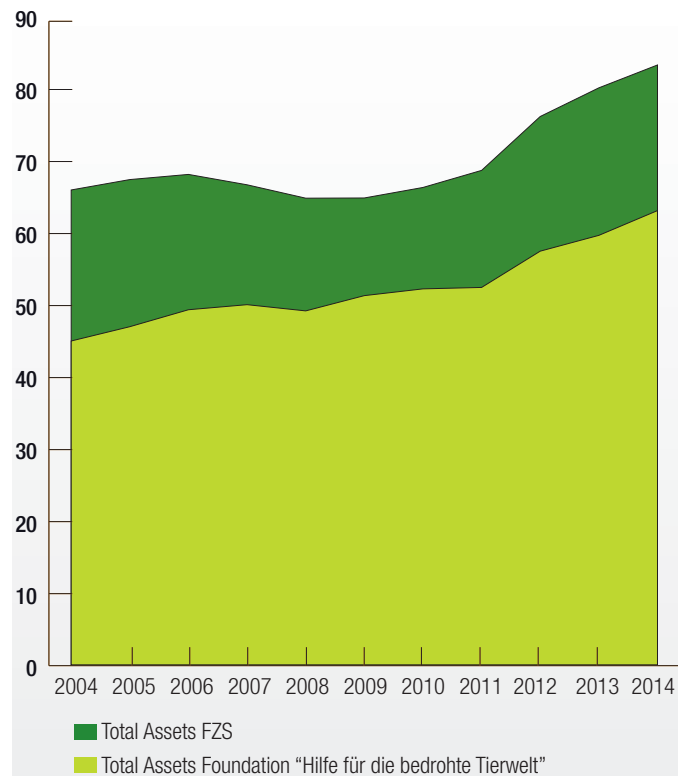
in thousands of Euro



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

DEVELOPMENT OF ASSETS 2004 – 2014

in millions of Euro



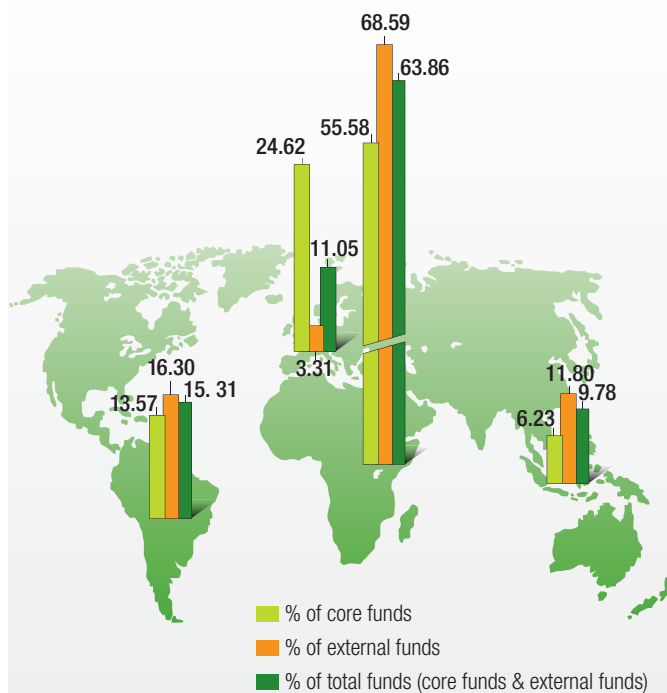
At € 83.34 million, the total assets of the Society and Foundation reached in 2014 the highest level since the creation of the Foundation in 2001.

The Foundation's Special Fund and direct investments fared well overall in 2014 at rates of between 5% and 5.7%, which correspond to expectations adjusted for the market situation. The diversification of investment risk remained an essential criterion for us last year and continues to contribute to the success of our capital investment policy.

In 2014 we were able to wind up a number of smaller inheritances and bequests that flowed into the Foundation. Most of this income went to the FZS. The largest increase in the Foundation's assets resulted from a large contribution of € 400,000 on the part of the Wetlands Bird Conservation Trust Fund (Treuhandstiftung Vogelschutz in Feuchtgebieten).

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING BY CONTINENT

in percent



Thanks to the large proportion of third-party funding – and representing 63.86% of our total project expenditures – Africa is the focus of our nature conservation activities.

The endowment fund – including the assets of the Wetlands Bird Conservation Trust Fund – increased by approximately € 3.4 million to circa € 63.1 million (2013: € 59.7 million). The Help for Threatened Wildlife Foundation is among the largest private conservation foundations in Europe, and a very good basis for our long-term conservation work in the future.

FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF 1858 E. V.

2014 Revenues

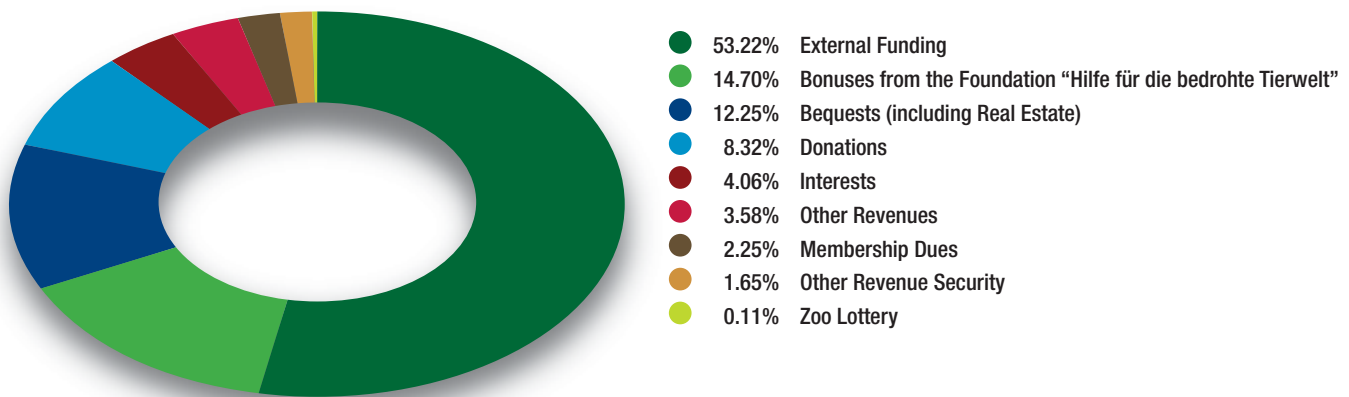
The revenue situation in 2014 was fundamentally encouraging. Still, we were not able to build on last year's record of almost one million euros from donations and awards stemming from fines ordered by regional civil courts. Income from these sources decreased by about € 0.1 million to € 890,000. At € 241,000, revenue from membership dues was slightly less than last year. On 31 December 2014, the FZS had 3,516 registered members. The number of sponsorships remained largely constant at 203 (2013: 202). Sponsors donate a minimum of € 30 monthly. The top draw in this programme continues to be the gorilla with 82 sponsors. Total revenues from sponsorships amounted to € 78,647. Awards from regional courts contributed € 60,395 to FZS income (2013: € 66,459). The number of awards remained the same.

Unpredictable income from legacies amounted to € 1.3 million, topping last year's total of € 0.96 million and contributing significantly to the positive financial results for the year.

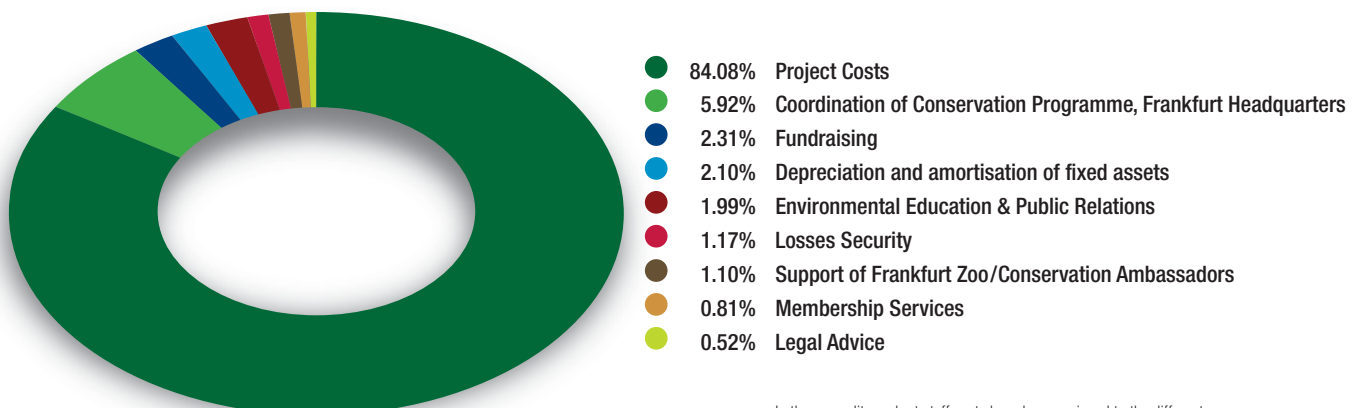
Income from legacies and bequests has been relatively high and steady in recent years and includes a considerable number of smaller donations. This trend suggests that the FZS is increasingly benefitting from the trust of potential bequeathers. The FZS team includes certified in-house executors and estate administrators who are able to manage complex inheritance scenarios with the help of experienced legal support.

Every testamentary bequest to the FZS or our Help for Threatened Wildlife Foundation helps ensure the long-term sustainability of our nature conservation work. We understand the great responsibility that goes along with managing the estates that have been left in our trust and are committed to ensuring that the gifts we receive are used effectively. A legacy or bequest offers a special opportunity for individuals to make a tax-free contribution that will continue to have an impact in protecting the world's natural treasures long after they have passed on.

REVENUES FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY (IN MILLION EURO)	2014	2013
External Funding	5.70	5.22
Bonuses from the Foundation "Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt"	1.58	1.70
Bequests (including Real Estate)	1.31	0.96
Donations	0.89	0.99
Interests	0.43	0.48
Other Revenues	0.38	0.31
Membership Dues	0.24	0.24
Other Revenue Security	0.18	0.75
Zoo Lottery	0.01	0.01
Transfer of unspent, not earmarked funds into 2015	-0.02	-0.31
TOTAL	10.71	10.36



EXPENDITURES FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY (IN MILLION EURO)	2014	2013
Project Costs	9.25	8.96
Coordination of Conservation Programme, Frankfurt Headquarters	0.65	0.48
Fundraising	0.25	0.22
Depreciation and amortisation of fixed assets	0.23	0.14
Environmental Education & Public Relations	0.22	0.19
Losses Security	0.13	0.08
Support of Frankfurt Zoo/Conservation Ambassadors	0.12	0.12
Membership Services	0.09	0.10
Legal Advice	0.06	0.07
TOTAL	11.01	10.36



In the expenditure chart staff costs have been assigned to the different areas.

ASSETS OF FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY (IN TEUR)	2014	2013
FIXED ASSETS		
Intangible Assets	0.18	16.50
Material Assets	2,889.99	3,084.79
Financial Assets	12,479.25	9,119.30
CURRENT ASSETS		
Receivables and Other Assets	3,267.25	2,845.12
Cash, Postal Giro, Banks	1,556.37	5,375.62
PREPAID EXPENSES AND DEFERRED CHARGES	35.32	50.93
TOTAL	20,228.37	20,492.26
LIABILITIES OF FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY (IN TEUR)	2014	2013
EQUITY		
Capital and Reserve Funds	16,405.95	16,701.70
UNSPENT FUNDS	330.65	314.47
SPECIAL RESERVES	177.12	246.27
LIABILITIES		
Project Funds	3,196.29	2,891.90
Project Liabilities	18.87	211.19
Other Liabilities	99.49	126.74
PREPAID EXPENSES AND DEFERRED CHARGES	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	20,228.37	20,492.26
ASSETS OF THE FOUNDATION "HILFE FÜR DIE BEDROHTE TIERWELT" (IN TEUR)	2014	2013
FIXED ASSETS		
Material Assets	0.00	0.00
Financial Assets	55,825.91	54,474.87
CURRENT ASSETS		
Other Assets	249.05	322.74
Liquid Assets	909.15	391.32
BALANCING ITEM for retained fund earnings	4,769.15	3,599.18
TRUST ASSETS "Stiftung Vogelschutz in Feuchtgebieten"	1,354.82	879.67
TOTAL	63,108.08	59,667.78
LIABILITIES OF THE FOUNDATION "HILFE FÜR DIE BEDROHTE TIERWELT" (IN TEUR)	2014	2013
FOUNDATION ASSETS		
Foundation Capital	43,510.56	43,505.06
Result Reserves	7,630.24	7,163.67
Reserves for Regrouping of Properties	856.16	853.64
Revaluation Reserve	8,332.97	5,671.95
Retained Earnings	1,411.34	1,574.89
SPECIAL RESERVES	12.00	12.00
LIABILITIES	0.00	6.90
TRUST ASSETS "Stiftung Vogelschutz in Feuchtgebieten"	1,354.82	879.67
TOTAL	63,108.08	59,667.78

As is the case with the Foundation, the FZS's income from capital gains declined again last year to € 0.64 million (2013: € 1.24 million) as a consequence of market capital developments. The large discrepancy is also due in part to extraordinary income deriving from the sale of securities in 2013 that was not repeated in 2014. Additional revenue includes € 87,000 in rent from properties owned by the FZS and € 37,000 from accessing reserves for renovation work. Both revenue sources were primarily the result of the sale of an inherited property in Berlin that was sold in early 2015.

Third-party funds increased again last year. This includes income that flows directly into our projects or that is managed by our sister organisation in the USA, FZS-US. Project revenues are integrated into our annual report via the financial database ABACUS. The financial developments of FZS-US will be reported on separately. The ability to cover management costs with third-party funds increased to about € 146,000. In addition to the revenues we generate ourselves (for example, through donations, membership dues, legacies, and funds from the Help for Threatened Wildlife Foundation), third-party, project-specific funds from government and private institutions represent an essential source of financing for major projects.

Our internal risk management and controlling monitors the balance between our own revenue generation and funding from third parties. In the area of third-party funding, the FZS has earned a good reputation that allows us to access and acquire further funds from government and private agencies. We are committed to ensuring that our implementation of funds corresponds to the strategic objectives of the FZS and that these funds are invested primarily in long-established project areas. Africa continues to present the greatest potential in terms of third-party support. The FZS's long-term, practical conservation work on the ground makes us an attractive partner for third-party funding organisations. Major new projects with KfW Development Bank and USAID are in development.

Another essential component in establishing a growing and diverse revenue structure is large donors who support our conservation efforts either directly or via their own foundations. In this respect, FZS-US is playing an important role. The contributions from the USA and Switzerland amounted to over € 2.6 million last year, three times the amount of donations we receive in Germany. Of course, it is worth recalling that smaller donations and membership dues provide for a higher level of sustainability and planning security overall.

2014 Expenditures

Project expenditures remained stable last year at a volume of approximately € 8.92 million. In 2014 the expenditure breakdown was 37%, or € 3.32 million, from our own resources (plus an additional € 0.27 million in carryover from 2013), and 63%, or € 5.59 million, from project-specific third-party funds. Dedicated on-top donations also flowed into the year's outlays. Overall, in 2014 we came in on budget (as approved by the Board).

For strategic reasons, the FZS had previously decided to divest itself of small, scattered conservation areas in Germany, which are enormously work-intensive and often subject to considerable risk. Since then, we have been turning over such conservation lands to reliable, local conservation organisations. In many cases, these areas had already been in the care of local organisations for decades and usufruct was in effect. In some cases we recorded losses, for example when the market value decreased due to conservation measures such as rehydrating areas that had been drained for various purposes. Of course the environmental value increased in direct proportion. In 2013 these types of issues generated losses of about € 74,000; in 2014 losses were only about € 6,000.

Costs related to membership administration declined last year as a consequence of the decision to produce three instead of four issues of our membership magazine, GORILLA, annually. We were unable to carry out all of the activities in the area of communications and fundraising last year.

Since 2014, a banking house has been managing a portion of the FZS's capital: approximately € 7.5 million in the form of securities. The active management of this capital yielded 7.01% last year, creating income that compensated by far the associated administrative costs involved.

Special depreciation allowances on financial investments that we own directly (for example stock in Deutsche Bank), on the other hand, led to significant losses of about € 175,000. These losses are included in the financial report as per the lower-of-cost-or-market rule.

Expenditures for office space, which are included under administrative costs, increased significantly due to the expansion into the first floor of the building. We also had to pay retroactively for utilities in connection with the office space on the fourth floor.

There were no additions to the core team at FZS headquarters in Frankfurt in 2014.

Continuous auditing

We audit expenditures in the projects that we support on a regular basis in order to ensure that funds are being spent according to our mission and in an effective and responsible manner. Major third-party projects are subject to special auditing requirements specified by the respective granting agencies. Our EU-funded projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, and Zambia, for example, are audited directly by the independent auditing firm, Baker Tilly, our project in Zimbabwe is audited

by Ernst & Young. The FZS also commissions auditors to examine the finances of our Africa Programme and its legal entities. Baker Tilly audits our Africa Regional Office in Tanzania, AVISA in Peru, and our KEHUS organisation in Indonesia. The annual financial statements of Help for Threatened Wildlife Foundation and FZS were audited by W+ST Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft of Frankfurt am Main.

AUDIT OPINION

W+ST Wirtschaftsprüfung GmbH, Frankfurt am Main, issued the following opinion on the complete annual statement of Zoologische Gesellschaft Frankfurt von 1858 e.V. consisting of balance sheet, profit and loss account, notes and the management report for the 2014 financial year:

To Verein Zoologische Gesellschaft Frankfurt von 1858 e.V.,
Frankfurt am Main

We have audited the annual statement – consisting of the balance sheet, profit and loss account, notes – and including the bookkeeping and the management report of Zoologische Gesellschaft Frankfurt von 1858 e.V. for the financial year from 1.1. to 31.12.14. The legal representatives of the society are responsible for the bookkeeping and for preparing the annual statement and management report in accordance with German commercial law. Our task is to issue an assessment of the annual statement, including the bookkeeping, and of the management report on the basis of the audit conducted by us.

We have conducted our audit of the annual statement in accordance with Article 317 of the German Commercial Code (HGB), based on the generally accepted audit principles defined by the German Institute of Chartered Auditors (IDW). These state that the audit is to be planned and executed in such a way as to recognize with sufficient certainty inaccuracies and infringements that have a material effect on the picture of the assets, financial and earnings position conveyed by the annual financial statement, taking into account the principles of proper accounting, and by the management report. Knowledge of the business activities and the economic and legal environment of the society and expectations as to possible mis-statements are taken into account in the determination of audit procedures. The effectiveness of the accounting-related internal control system and the evidence supporting the disclosures in the bookkeeping, annual statement and the management report are examined primarily on a spot check basis within the framework of

the audit. The audit includes assessing the accounting and consolidation principles used and significant estimates made by the legal representatives, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the annual statement and the management report. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Our audit led to no objections.

According to our assessment on the basis of the knowledge acquired in the course of the audit, the annual statement complies with the legal requirements and imparts – under observation of the principles for orderly accounting – a representation of the asset, financial and profit position of the society corresponding to the true circumstances. The management report is consistent with the annual financial statement and as a whole provides an accurate picture of the society's position and accurately conveys the opportunities and risks of future development.

Frankfurt am Main, 30 June 2015

*W+ST Wirtschaftsprüfung GmbH
Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft*

K.-R. Weisgerber, sworn auditor

F. Waldmann, certified accountant

FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY-US

OUR PARTNER IN THE USA



 Dr Peyton West, Director of
 Frankfurt Zoological Society-US.

FZS-US, our partner in the United States, continues to play an important role in expanding FZS's international profile and attracting funding from American supporters.

Poaching remained the primary focus of the organisation's support to the FZS, as the US government and philanthropic community have increasingly focused on this critical issue. FZS-US continues to partner with the Clinton Global Initiative's Elephant Action Network and made an official CGI commitment at its Annual Meeting in September.

2014 marked a number of exciting developments. The organisation officially welcomed new board members Matt Arnold and Heather Zichal, income to FZS-US reached an all-time high, and its supporters included some of conservation's most ardent and committed advocates. Major partners include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), WWF-US, the Wildlife Conservation Society, Conservation International, Hansjörg Wyss, the Wyss Foundation and the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation along with a number of private foundations and individuals. In 2014 FZS-US supported projects in Zimbabwe (Gonarezhou), Tanzania (Serengeti and Selous), Zambia (North Luangwa), Ethiopia (Guassa), Peru (Manú and Altos Purús), Brazil (Cantão), Kenya, and Sumatra (Bukit Tigapuluh).

FZS-US and FZS maintain their close relationship through the FZS-US board, of which FZS Director Dr Christof Schenck is the President, and the FZS Steering Committee of which Dr Schenck and FZS-US Director Dr Peyton West are both members.

The US board met twice in 2014 Washington, D.C., and the SC met both in Frankfurt and in Zimbabwe, where Dr West visited the FZS-US funded Gonarezhou Conservation Project and witnessed ranger training and patrols first-hand.



**FRANKFURT
 ZOOLOGICAL
 SOCIETY-US**

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FINANCES

With the support of old and new donors, FZS-US's income reached \$ 4.3 million in 2014, close to twice that of the prior year. More than 95% of spending went to projects, reflecting the organisation's commitment to efficiency and low overhead. FZS-US is particularly grateful to the New York office of O'Melveny & Myers LLP, which generously provided pro-bono legal advice.



Ethiopia is one area where FZS-US supported FZS projects in 2014.

PROSPECTS

As 2015 gets underway, FZS-US is looking at another banner fundraising year with much of the support going to supporting FZS projects in Africa. The organisation will also be increasing its focus on Latin America, working to raise US awareness and support, particularly for FZS's work in Peru.

IN THANKS

FZS-US was proud to partner with the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation in the unprecedented, continent-wide "Great Elephant Census" in 2014. The Foundation supported FZS-US and FZS in organising and implementing the count in Tanzania together with our Tanzanian partners. The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation is now supporting the installation of a digital radio system in the Selous Game Reserve to strengthen anti-poaching efforts in this critical ecosystem.

FZS-US is providing major support to the North Luangwa Conservation Project with a generous grant from the Wyss Foundation. The Wyss Foundation, which supports projects in areas ranging from conservation and education to economic opportunity and social justice, recently embarked on a major anti-poaching initiative that is providing much-needed funds to protect Africa's most threatened elephants.

Paul Tudor Jones remains one of FZS-US's most generous supporters, enabling the organization to provide long-term funding to the FZS Gonarezhou Conservation Project in Zimbabwe. With this support, FZS has worked with its Zimbabwean partners to convert Gonarezhou from a largely unprotected "paper park" into a thriving and healthy ecosystem with one of Africa's few growing elephant populations.

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and an annual **contribution** of more than € 241,000.

... our **donors and sponsors** for a total of € 890,000 in donations.

... all those generous **supporters** who left a legacy to FZS.

... our long-term **project partners** who multiply the effect of each donated euro through their work on the ground.

PUBLICATIONS 2014

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS, BOOKS, REVIEWS, REPORTS

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COVER:

Outside: Brown bear in the Carpathians (Kantsyrenko, USPB)

Inside: FZS aircraft above Selous (Daniel Rosengren)

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