

ANNUAL REPORT

2015 FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY PROSPECTS FOR
2016



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ZOOLOGICAL
SOCIETY



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North Luangwa National Park in Zambia.

Dear Readers and Friends of the Frankfurt Zoological Society



30 years are a long time. But when it comes to protecting landscapes and wilderness areas or to re-establishing animal populations, 30 years are a blink of an eye. Just like our cultural heritage, for example the pyramids, palaces and paintings, outstanding natural areas must be protected over centuries. It is a task which requires stamina.

For three decades now, the Frankfurt Zoological Society has been committed to a project in North Luangwa, a national park in north-eastern Zambia. The “North Luangwa Conservation Programme” was set up in 1986. We celebrated its 30th anniversary in March with some 200 guests at the German Embassy in Lusaka and, for me as President, it provided confirmation of the great importance of the extensive North Luangwa programme. The event in Lusaka showed me how well the programme is established within the country and its networks, how our commitment is regarded as a valuable partnership by the Zambian wildlife authority and how much we have achieved in these last 30 years. This impression was confirmed during my visit to the Park itself. North Luangwa is an impressive, vast and pristine wilderness. The elephant population is healthy and stable, the small group of reintroduced rhinos is growing. This should not, of course, be taken for granted against a background of the current level of ivory and rhino poaching and it requires a high level of commitment from all those involved.

A long-term and dependable financial commitment is also necessary to facilitate the work of the North Luangwa Conservation Programme and to put it onto a secure footing. FZS can provide this solid base thanks to its own funds and those of the many private donors. With the help of a number of large new international donors, FZS is also able to provide the additional support needed to combat the poaching crisis.

I am delighted to present this review of the eventful year of 2015 along with a preview of the current year in the present Annual Report.

Klaus Becker
President of the Frankfurt Zoological Society

REVIEW

2015 – A YEAR BOTH OF SUCCESSES AND NEW CHALLENGES

Mr Schenck, from the FZS' perspective, are you satisfied with 2015?

Christof Schenck: I'm satisfied with how FZS has developed, but less than satisfied – not too say very worried – about how the world is developing and the continuing massive loss of biological diversity. Globally, we're facing great challenges: we're losing more and more wilderness areas and therefore habitats for animals and plants. Natural areas are being turned into agricultural and settlement areas, roads are penetrating pristine regions, the extraction of mineral resources is increasing rapidly, rivers are being channelled and dammed. Ecosystems are finding it increasingly difficult to do what's necessary to stabilise life on Earth. This has huge negative consequences, especially for us humans.

2015 was also marked by large flows of migrants from the South and from the Middle East to Central Europe. In Africa in particular, with its rapid rural population growth, it's important to combat the causes of the flight. This involves, for example, protecting forests which provide vital water storage. Nature conservation has long since come to include human protection. Fortunately, we've been able to find new partners and supporters who are helping us to increase the scope of our activities

significantly. For most of our projects the message is: mission accomplished, area now secured.

What were the highlights of 2015 for you?

The German President's visit to the Serengeti was one of the major highlights of last year: the highest representative of one of the largest economies of the world paying his respects to a conservation icon. This meant increased appreciation for Tanzania, national parks in general and also for our work over the last half century.

Our staying power has also paid off in Peru. We celebrated 25 years of rain forest protection there. This included a symposium, organised together with the local conservation authorities. Where these days (especially in the tropics) is it possible to find large reserves and wilderness areas like the Manú National Park which are completely intact and even better protected now than they were 25 years ago?

We are also delighted about the arrival of three new Husky aircraft for air monitoring in Tanzania and Zambia. These represent a visible sign of the effective partnership between the German state as a donor, Tanzania and us as a non-profit NGO in the fight against poaching.

From your perspective, what was the biggest setback last year?

There are always setbacks. But we've never experienced anything like the mass die-off of more than 200,000 saiga antelope in the Kazakh steppe. Clearly, bacteria were responsible, but there are still many questions which need to be answered. We know far too little about the biology of these animals and the interaction of different factors in ecosystems.

By contrast, we're all too familiar with the causes of the continuing widespread poaching of elephants. Wealth and strong demand for ivory in Asia, and completely inadequate protection in Africa. More elephants are currently dying there than are being born and we continue to invest massive amounts of time and money into anti-poaching, even at the expense of other urgent threats to biodiversity.

Did FZS' global programme change in 2015?

It's extremely rare for us to cancel projects, and we didn't have to do so in 2015, either. But there are of course projects, or parts of projects, which we can either hand over to other funding providers, or that have run their course as planned. Strategic considerations can also lead to changes in the programme: in Europe, we've gradually withdrawn from all cultural landscape



“The German President’s visit to the Serengeti was one of the major highlights of last year. This meant increased appreciation for Tanzania, national parks in general and also for our work over the last half century.”

Dr. Christof Schenck
FZS Executive Director

projects and individual species protection measures to focus on existing or potential wilderness areas.

An example of this structural change is our commitment to the Virunga National Park in eastern Congo, an enormously important habitat for the last mountain gorillas. We had a local team there for many years, but now that the park is well staffed and managed, we offer direct support to the area, most recently by providing new communication equipment.

Did FZS commit itself to any new areas in 2015?

We are always interested in identifying large and biological diverse wilderness areas that need support. But we're very prudent and take a highly strategic approach to committing ourselves to new places.

In 2015, we established a new project area in the Kanuku Mountains in Guyana. We signed a framework agreement with the government and our project managers have now been there on the ground for more than a year. In the north-east of Peru we've also set up a new project in the Zona Reservada Yaguas. These two new regions show the enormous potential in South America. Regions of up to several thousand square kilometres containing

“Conservation is actually one of the most important tasks facing us today. And it’s great that we at FZS are able to play such a decisive role.”

extremely species-rich wilderness areas need to be safeguarded. That’s why we’re now also liaising with the authorities in Colombia.

How does FZS select its projects?

We have three main strategic criteria: biodiversity, wilderness and size. The areas should be as large as possible to allow natural processes to take place.

Are there any other decisive criteria?

Yes, there are many further considerations: what are the main risks, what is achievable, who are the main stakeholders, what are the costs, is there state-level acceptance, etc. Since all protected areas ultimately depend on political decisions, you need good connections.

We never put all our eggs in one basket in our programmes. We need to weigh financial risks as well as safety issues; we have projects in some very stable countries but we also venture into areas where things are less predictable and even occasionally dangerous. Nature conservation criteria are, however, paramount. Most of the places we operate in are state reserves, which means that we work hand in hand with the authorities and involve the local communities. We support the state conservation efforts, yet still function as an independent NGO.

How does FZS fund its commitments?

We are in the fortunate position of receiving steady annual funding from the proceeds of our Help for Threatened Wildlife Foundation. The Foundation’s capital has been gradually amassed since the era of Bernhard Grzimek, mostly from inheritances and legacies. Members, private donors and sponsors also contribute to our projects, while estates continue to play an important role. Then there are the major public and private donors. The Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, the Ministry of the Environment, the KfW, GIZ, the EU – these are important partners for us. We also cooperate with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and USAID in the USA. Significant private foundations include the Wyss Foundation, the Paul Allen Family Foundation and Paul Tudor Jones as well as the Sarastro and Eleonore-Beck foundations. Basically, every euro helps and every euro represents an investment in the future.

Where do the major challenges and opportunities lie in 2016?

We cannot afford to lose any of the momentum we have built up in the formation of new wilderness areas in Germany and Europe. Poaching in Africa continues to be a major challenge. Increasingly, we have to find solutions for people who live inside or on the periphery of protected areas. Bi-

odiversity is a rapidly vanishing resource which our own lives depend upon. Just as with climate change, I think that people are now recognising the full extent of the threat, and so there is a greater willingness to take action. Conservation is one of the most important tasks facing us today, and I’m proud that FZS is playing such an important role.

LOOKING BACK AT 2015

AWARDS, EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS 2015

FEBRUARY

German Federal President Joachim Gauck visits the Serengeti National Park



German President Joachim Gauck meeting the FZS team in the Serengeti.

During their stay in Tanzania, President Joachim Gauck and First Lady Daniela Schadt paid a brief visit to the Serengeti National Park and the FZS team on 5 February 2015. They had just over three hours to get to know one of the world’s most spectacular national parks. It was the first visit by a German President to the Serengeti, a national park with close connections to Germany in many ways. Bernhard Grzimek’s 1959 film “Serengeti Shall Not Die” drew the attention of the international community to the park and the threats facing it. In the ensuing years and decades Grzimek and the former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere established nature conservation programmes in the Serengeti. By visiting the area, President Gauck acknowledged the importance of the Serengeti – as one of the most significant natural wonders of the Earth, as part of Tanzania’s national heritage and as

one of the engines driving the country’s economy. In his speech, Gauck thanked Tanzania for its efforts in preserving its natural resources and paid tribute to the

work of the Frankfurt Zoological Society which has supported the protection of the Serengeti for more than 50 years.



Joachim Gauck hearing about conservation work with the villages.

FEBRUARY

15 years of Prespa National Park



Over 15 years ago Albanian and German scientists and conservationists campaigned to establish a national park on the shore of Lake Prespa in Albania. And with great success. In February 2000, Albania designated the Lake Prespa region a national park, covering an area of more than 24,000 hectares. The FZS has backed the development of the park and supported it from 2002 on. FZS project leader Wolfgang Fremuth has been overseeing the development of the park for more than 12 years.

MARCH

German Ambassador visits North Luangwa



At the end of March, the German Ambassador to Zambia, Bernd Finke, visited the North Luangwa National Park and our North Luangwa Conservation Programme. In intensive discussions with the Zambian wildlife authority and the Frankfurt Zoological Society, the Ambassador addressed topics such as the development of sustainable tourism and the fight against poaching.

APRIL

Grzimek on German television



On Good Friday 2015, the German TV audience became reacquainted with Professor Grzimek – in the feature film “Grzimek” broadcast as part of an evening of programmes devoted to the naturalist on the first channel, Das Erste. The film is not a typical biography. Instead it recounts and pays tribute to the adventurous life of Bernhard Grzimek. Unfortunately, his commitment to conservation was somewhat neglected. After the TV movie, Das Erste broadcast “Grzimek – the Documentary” by Erika Kimmel and Bernd Isecke. Impressive archive recordings showed the real Grzimek in action; his companions, friends and grandson Christian Grzimek also have their say.

APRIL

Wildebeest census in the Serengeti



Every year huge herds of about 1.5 million wildebeest and zebras migrate some 2,000 km across the Serengeti-Mara ecosystem. FZS has been counting the migrating wildebeest in the Serengeti every two or three years from the air since 1985. The “Wildebeest Census 2015” was once again conducted together with the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute TAWIRI and the National Park Authority TANAPA. Wildebeest data has been collected for roughly 60 years now, starting with the censuses conducted by Persall (1956), Swynnerton (1958) and Grzimek (1959). The migration is part of what makes the Serengeti unique.

MAY

New: the Hunsrück Hochwald National Park



The Hunsrück Hochwald National Park was opened at Whitsun 2015 as Germany’s 16th national park. FZS has been advising and supporting the Friends of the Hunsrück National Park right from the outset.

MAY

Manú Biosphere Reserve celebrates first Andean Bear Festival



The Frankfurt Zoological Society hosted the first Andean Bear Festival in the municipality of Lucuybamba in the buffer zone of the Manú National Park (Peru) on 16 and 17 May. The Andean bear is the only native bear of South America. Coexistence between humans and bears is not always peaceful and conflicts repeatedly arise. One of the objectives of the FZS ProBosque Manú project is to facilitate the peaceful coexistence of man and bear. Acceptance campaigns such as this festival play an important role.

JULY

Cooperation with Guyana



FZS Executive Director Dr. Christof Schenck and the Speaker of the National Assembly of Guyana, Rafael Trotman, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in July. In this cooperation agreement the FZS and Guyana’s Protected Areas Commission (PAC) commit themselves to working together to conserve the country’s natural areas. FZS will provide funding and manpower.

JULY

Cooperation with Vietnam



FZS also signed a new memorandum of understanding with Vietnam in July 2015. FZS project leader Dr. Ha Thang Long and Dr. Tran The Lien, the head of the Department of Nature Conservation (DoNC) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Hanoi signed the joint document. The FZS project aimed at protecting the Kon Ka Kinh National Park and the central Vietnamese highlands is now an official partner of the Vietnamese government.

SEPTEMBER

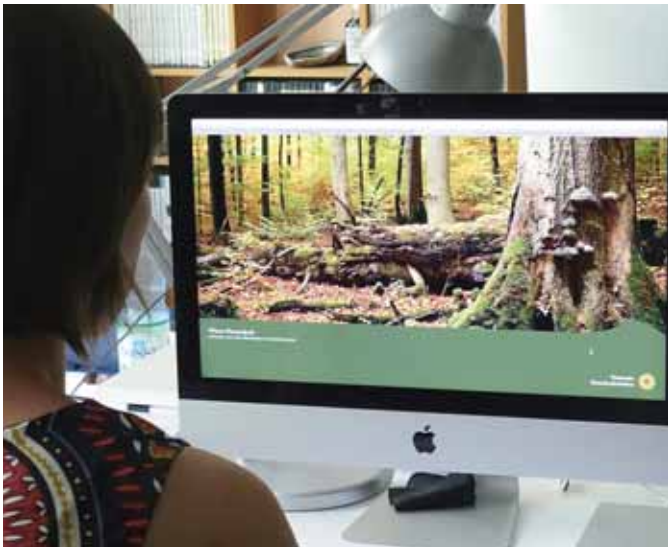
Wilderness Conference



230 conservation and government experts came together for two days in September in the Potsdam State Chancellery (Germany) to discuss the topic of wilderness. The central question was how we can create or restore more wilderness in Germany.

SEPTEMBER

National park information



EUROPARC Deutschland e. V. and FZS have been providing accessible and understandable information and background material on national parks in the new online portal wissen-nationalpark.de which has been online since September 2015.
→ www.wissen-nationalpark.de

OCTOBER

Gerald Bigurube on TAWA Executive Board



In mid-October 2015, Tanzania set up a new authority to assume responsibility for protected areas: the Tanzania Wildlife Authority TAWA. Gerald Bigurube, FZS Tanzania Country Director, has been appointed an executive board member of TAWA. With a lifetime of experience in the wildlife sector in Tanzania and as the ex-director of Tanzania National Parks, he is well acquainted with the structures in the country and will help guide the formation and operations of the new authority.

NOVEMBER

25 years of FZS in Peru



In 1990, two young biologists, Christof Schenck and Elke Staib, set off for Peru to study giant otters for their doctoral thesis. 25 years later, the modest species conservation project has grown into a major and comprehensive programme which supports the Peruvian protected areas agency SERNANP and invests millions in the protection of the region between the Andes and Amazon. In November 2015, Schenck, Staib and the FZS-Peru team celebrated the 25th anniversary of the successful “Andes to Amazon Conservation Programme”.

NOVEMBER

Aircraft against poachers



German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier handing over a symbolic key for the new Husky aircraft to TANAPA Director General Alan Kijazi.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier symbolically handed over three small Husky A-1C aircraft to the FZS in Arusha, Tanzania, in November 2015. FZS pilot and project manager Mark Jenkins, the Chief Park Warden of the Serengeti, William Mwakilema, as well as Alan Kijazi, Director of the Tanzanian national park authority TANAPA, and Martin Loibooki, Director of the new Tanzanian wildlife protection authority TAWA, were presented with a symbolic key. The small and lightweight Husky propeller aircraft are particularly well suited for monitoring flights since they can be flown at very low altitudes and at relatively low speed. They allow the great and inaccessible wilderness areas to be monitored from the air and poaching activities to be quickly detected. One of the aircraft is now stationed in the Serengeti

where it has already flown its first successful mission during which it helped track down poachers.



In action above the Serengeti: the first of the three Husky aircraft.

The second Husky was handed directly to the Selous Game Reserve by German Development Minister Gerd Müller in April 2016. It will be used to support the work of the rangers there. The third aircraft will support conservation work in the North Luangwa National Park in Zambia. FZS has been using aircraft for the protection and monitoring of wildlife in Africa for many decades. The aircraft will remain the responsibility of FZS, which will operate them to support the reserve authorities in Tanzania and Zambia.

The German government has provided extensive funding for the improved protection of the Serengeti and Selous reserves and the increased mobilisation of local communities. These projects are being implemented by Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit GIZ and KfW Development Bank.



AFRICA

OUR MAIN
COMMITMENT

More than half of FZS’ core funds are assigned to projects in Africa each year. Moreover, the substantial funding raised from third parties, ensures that the Africa programme is by far FZS’ largest commitment. Given that our main areas are facing unprecedented levels of elephant and rhino poaching, this investment is critical at this time if we are to conserve these wilderness areas and their wildlife for the future.



1961
FZS started its first conservation project in Africa in Virunga National Park (DRC)

8 Aircraft
There are currently three Husky A-1C and five Cessna aircraft owned or deployed by FZS in Africa

8.65 Million Euros
Our conservation support in 2015: EUR 1.85 million from our own resources and EUR 6.80 million from third-party funding

11 Projects
and programmes on the continent

5 Project Countries
*¹ DR Congo
² Ethiopia
³ Tanzania
⁴ Zambia
⁵ Zimbabwe*

Programme Office
Africa Regional Office, Seronera, Serengeti National Park, Tanzania



True wilderness in the Luangwa Valley.

FROM THE FIELD

NORTH LUANGWA, ZAMBIA

Protecting National Parks and Wildlife



Vicka has noticed something. She recognizes that smell and sniffs around until she has found the source. Tropical wood! Vicka is a two-year-old, black shepherd mix and one of currently two dogs in the newly-created canine unit in North Luangwa. The dog and her canine partner Sara have been trained to locate illegal wildlife products: ivory, rhino horn, bushmeat, and tropical wood. They can also sniff out hunting guns and ammunition. The wood that Vicka found this time was illegally cut in the North Luangwa ecosystem and destined for international markets.

The canine unit was founded in 2015 in order to support checkpoints along roads and villages sweeps. And we are pleased to report on initial successes. Thanks to the dogs and their discovery of ivory and bushmeat, police have already made arrests. Already, dogs have become an integral part of park and wildlife protection and will help stem the tide of poaching, which is key to conservation work in the North Luangwa ecosystem.

The North Luangwa Conservation Programme is the joint effort of Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) and the Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) to protect a unique wilderness area. In 2015, the programme area covered some 22,000 square kilometres. The programme delivers hands-on and effective conservation. Our role is primarily to provide financial, logistical, and personnel support to DNPW in all areas of ecosystem conservation.

Situation on the Ground

For over 30 years the NLCP has helped transform the national park, which had been nearly completely destroyed by poaching and other illegal activities, into one of the most secure conservation areas in Zambia. A sign of this amazing recovery is the successful black rhino reintroduction programme that began in 2003. Of course, the threat of poaching remains. Everywhere in Africa criminal gangs have been targeting rhinos and elephants, and Zambia is no exception. North Luangwa is still secure, because rangers – thanks to our support – are well-equipped and better able to protect the growing populations of rhinos and elephants from poachers. To keep things this way, the NLCP backs up government agencies with ranger equipment and training, special units, as well as new initiatives, such as the canine patrols.

Steps Taken in 2015

North Luangwa is currently protected by 180 rangers as well as a special unit consisting of another 36 rangers dedicated to protecting rhinos and elephants. The members of the rhino and elephant unit in particular received intense training – from weaponry to first aid. We purchased uniforms and equipment for the ranger patrols, built a ranger station and housing for the head rangers, set up a digital radio network, and erected a new aircraft hangar. The programme also finances fuel and maintenance for the airplane as well as the necessary food rations for over 70 patrols every month.

The NLCP also builds and maintains roads, airstrips, bridges, and buildings in the park. In 2015 we also provided important funding to expand and modernize the command centre that directs all aspects of the park protection programme. There is also support from the air. The programme has access to a Cessna 182 and a two-seat Aviat Husky will arrive within the year. The light aircraft will be used for surveillance flights and to support ground patrols. They also increase the visibility of park protection forces and scare off poachers.

The canine unit and a small intelligence unit represent new approaches to not only locating and identifying poachers, but bringing them before the courts with the prospect of conviction. We were able to pursue 22 cases of poaching and ivory smuggling in 2015. We also helped apprehend a number of other perpetrators of smaller crimes.

Growing slowly but well, the population of reintroduced black rhinos requires special attention. We repaired 100 kilometres of fencing last year, built three Bomas (enclosures), and captured and anaesthetized more than a dozen animals to replace their tracking devices.

Looking Ahead

Good park protection and a motivated cohort of rangers provide the foundation for the long-term security of the North Luangwa ecosystem. But the key to the future of the area and the preservation of the ecosystem lies in the hands of the people who live there. We have to engage them, get them to take on responsibility for nature conservation, and make sure that they profit from it. Only then will the long-term protection of North Luangwa be guaranteed. That is why the NLCP will not only continue to improve park protection measures, but intensify its work with local communities and expand environmental education activities in schools.



Nocturnal visit to the watering hole: a black rhino.

FROM THE FIELD

BALE MOUNTAINS, ETHIOPIA

Of People and Wolves in Ethiopia's Highlands



The red and elegant Ethiopian wolf is always a welcome sight on the high altitude grasslands in the Bale Mountains of Ethiopia. After all these rare animals are one of the reasons that the Frankfurt Zoological Society is at work in the Bale Mountains. There are probably fewer than 400 of these wolves left. Following an outbreak of canine distemper, only about 80 Ethiopian wolves survive in the Bale Mountains. The virus, like rabies, is transmitted by domestic dogs. And their numbers continue to rise with the growing human population living in and around the Bale Mountains National Park. This is why our conservation focus is on mitigating the threats arising from human activities.

Situation on the Ground

The Bale Mountains National Park (BMNP), a protected area of approximately 2,200 square kilometres in the Ethiopian highlands, lies more than 3000 metres above sea level. It is Africa's largest area of afro-montane habitat. The approximately 1.5 million people of the region are mostly farmers and livestock herders.

The burgeoning human population and their domestic animals around the park exert pressure on the Bale Mountains ecosystem. Livestock dung is everywhere and the grass is grazed so short that no leaf ever matures. There are few trees, not only because the treeline is near but also because the rich juniper and hagenia forests are passing by on the backs of donkeys. Whatever is left of the highland heather is browsed so short that only mounds of woody vegetation remain.

Over the last decades, settlement and livestock grazing in the park have increased unchecked. And people use its natural resources such as timber and firewood and harvest coffee and honey. Within the Bale Mountains Conservation Project, Frankfurt Zoological

Society works inside and outside the protected area to address the drivers of ecosystem degradation. There is a lot at stake.

The forests, grasslands and wetlands of the afro-montane Bale Mountains are an area of exceptional biodiversity with many endemic species that only occur in the Bale Mountains ecosystem. It is the most important haven for the Ethiopian wolf, the world's most endangered canid as well as Ethiopia's majestic mountain nyala.

From an economic perspective as well, an intact ecosystem in the mountains is important, since the Bale Mountains are like a water tower for the region. 12 million people in the lowlands rely on this water for survival.

Steps Taken in 2015

We are designing and implementing new community based systems for natural resource management, sustainable energy initiatives, land use planning, all underpinned by conservation covenants. These covenants outline what communities agree to do or not to do in response to the benefits they obtain.

Today, most of the Bale mountains forests, nearly 500,000 hectares, are under participatory management, with the communities in the driving seat. This has reduced fires, illegal timber use, farmland expansion and settlement encroachment whilst increasing forest regeneration. In 2015, we have also laid the foundation for joint management of controlled hunting areas in the Bale Mountains. Communities are beginning to embrace habitat and species protection.



Coffee is one of the natural resources of the Bale Mountains. FZS is supporting a "coffee forest" near to the National Park, which the local communities can use to generate income.



In late 2015 there was a further outbreak of canine distemper among the Ethiopian wolves in Bale, putting the already small population of these rare animals under renewed pressure.

To support community forest management, FZS has developed a simple and informative community-based monitoring tool. The tool enables both communities and the government to take appropriate and timely management decisions and actions.

Providing alternative or more efficient energy sources for local communities has proven to be one of the most effective ways of reducing deforestation. In 2015, over 250 fuel efficient stoves were sold to rural communities with a 30% discount on cost. FZS has also established a nursery. It produced more than 84,000 seedlings which were distributed to rural communities in order to eventually provide wood for fuel and building.

Land use planning in the settled buffers of protected areas is the basis for ensuring that communities can live within the limits of their land. FZS has introduced participatory local-level land use planning in the first of many areas outside of the BMNP in 2015. Road maps and training material were developed, district level coordination committees set up and a planning team

trained. Field surveys are now underway as the basis for future decisions on land use.

In two areas outside the Park, FZS has worked with local communities, government and research centers to identify improved crops varieties, train farmers and provide seeds for potatoes and barley. Yields were two to three times higher than local varieties and as a result farmers are scaling up the initiative by their own.

Looking Ahead

The challenges for the conservation of the Bale Mountains ecosystem are complex. We believe that only a coordinated and multi-faceted approach has any chance of success. We strive to empower local communities to be partners in natural resource management. We are embarking on a long-term strategy and partnership with national and local government, other NGOs with specific areas of expertise such as family planning and donors who understand the linkages between development and the environment.

FROM THE FIELD

SERENGETI, TANZANIA

Conservation Banks: Creating Opportunities and Achieving Conservation Goals



The women have gathered in the shade of a house. It is three in the afternoon and it is hot. They spread straw mats out on the dusty ground, and take off their shoes before sitting down. A blue metal box is placed in the centre of the gathering and three women each open one of the three locks.

It's a colourful gathering. The women from the village of Robanda to the west of Serengeti National Park belong to the Ikoma ethnic group and are dressed for the occasion. This is a business meeting. The meetings of the so-called Community Conservation Bank (COCOBA) take place weekly. The women are part of 47 COCOBA groups that have sprung up around the Serengeti. There are 1,200 members.

Situation on the Ground

Combining nature conservation with development is one of the central features of the "Serengeti Ecosystem Management" programme. FZS has led the way in establishing COCOBA groups for many years. We supply the metal boxes and locks, provide know-how and forms for bookkeeping, but not start-up capital. Members of the group contribute one to three shares per week, a sum that they determine themselves. Most of the accumulated money goes toward loans. Members each have an opportunity to take out a microloan in order to start or expand a business. The most important premise of the microloan is that the business idea must either contribute to conservation or at least be



compatible with it. In addition, COCOBA members are required to participate in environmental education courses in their villages. They also pay into three sub-funds for healthcare, education, and environmental protection.

The group of women from Robanda has been very successful and there are strict rules at their meetings. If you talk out of turn, you pay. The group was one of the first three to be founded in Robanda. FZS first approached villagers who depended upon poaching for income – the idea being to offer them alternative ways of securing a livelihood. The hunters were for the most part men, but women were primarily responsible for butchering the bush-meat and selling it at local markets.

This group has already saved 45 million Tanzanian shillings, and loans of up to 6 million are permitted. In rural communities, a loan of this size – equivalent to approximately 2,400 euros – provides sufficient capital for a new business: a restaurant, mobile phone store, chicken farm, or beekeeping start-up. Some of the women are even considering expanding out beyond the borders of their village.

Steps Taken in 2015

In the meantime there are COCOBA members who have themselves become trainers – recently a new group was founded in Robanda in this way. In the area around the Sarina Forest in

Handicrafts, honey or fabrics - tourism offers various ways for the Serengeti communities to market their local products.

Ngorongoro District last year, ten new COCOBA groups were established with a membership of 105 women and 141 men. We are also particularly pleased about the success of the 'Elephant Task Force', in which 26 members from six COCOBA groups are very involved. They have made significant progress in reducing crop damage from elephants.

One goal of the SEMA project is to establish the Serengeti as a brand for high-quality products produced within the ecosystem. Currently, FZS is trying to access attractive markets for local honey. One market study has shown that there is a market for certified, locally produced, environmentally sustainable honey in the hotel and tourism industry. There is also the possibility of marketing the honey internationally. 80 COCOBA members are presently being trained as beekeepers as a part of this new initiative. FZS also organised a competition in conjunction with the annual Serengeti Cultural Festival for COCOBA-produced honey varieties. The winners received professional beekeeping equipment that will help them increase production.

In 2015, FZS created a central database to store and evaluate information about COCOBA activities. Long-term studies are still underway, but the interim findings are encouraging. The system is sustainable, the groups are self-reliant, and new groups are forming independently.

Looking Ahead

The first COCOBAs in Tanzania were founded near Mahale Mountains National Park, and they have been a model of success. In Ngorongoro District the concept has been adopted as the official nature conservation and development strategy of the government and the Tanzanian national park authority TANAPA. The long-term vision is for the expansion of COCOBA groups in all of the country's national parks. Numbers are also increasing in other African countries, such as Zambia and Ethiopia.



COCOBA group meeting: The members decide among themselves whether or not to issue credit.



Accurate accounting and collective control help establish confidence in the COCOBA principle.



The Serengeti remains a unique and intact ecosystem as a large pristine wilderness area that provides sufficient space for wildlife and natural processes.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS & PROGRAMMES IN AFRICA 2015

COUNTRY	PROJECT	WHAT IS IT ABOUT?		CONSERVATION SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS IN 2015
DR CONGO	Virunga Conservation Programme Project area: 7,800 km ² Project start: 1961/2002	About half of the approximately 800 Mountain Gorillas alive today, live in the mountainous forests of the Virunga volcanoes. FZS supports the Virunga National Park financially in protecting this politically unstable region and in working against poaching and the continuous destruction of forest.		A digital radio network is being installed to improve overall security and law enforcement effectiveness through secure communications and tracking of patrol movements. FZS is partially funding the purchase and installation. In Phase 1 in 2015, a first consignment of equipment was purchased.
DR CONGO	Maiko Conservation Project Project area: 10,885 km ² Project start: 2011	Supporting the management of Maiko National Park.		A survey of the distribution of Grauer's gorillas confirmed the species' survival in the area.
ETHIOPIA	Bale Mountains Conservation Project Project area: 2,200 km ² (National Park), 8,000 km ² (Ecosystem) Project start: 2004	The Bale Mountains in Ethiopia are the largest remaining afroalpine ecosystem on the African continent and habitat for many endemic species. FZS works jointly with the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) to conserve this unique area, to optimize park management, and to improve livelihoods of the people living in the area through sustainable use of the local natural resources.		<p>Bale Mountains National Park (BMNP) formally gazetted by the Ethiopian Council of Ministers. This gives the park a secure legal basis. FZS was significantly involved in the preparations.</p> <p>We supported community based organisations engaged in participatory forest management around BMNP through building their management and governance capacity.</p> <p>In a joint effort with communities, government and concessionaires, we developed a model for sustainable hunting in a designated area that ensures ownership and control through the communities.</p> <p>Trials of new varieties of potatoes and barley produced higher yields than local varieties, and thus revealed a strategy to improve agricultural productivity and reduce land conversion rates in buffer areas. In the continued effort to reduce deforestation, a new tree nursery was established, over 84,000 seedlings distributed and over 250 fuel efficient stoves sold to rural communities.</p>
ETHIOPIA	Afroalpine Ecosystem Conservation Project Project area: 585 km ² Project start: 2004	In the three northern Ethiopian highland regions, the Simien Mountains National Park, the Abune Yoseph Community Conservation Area, and the Guassa Community Conservation Area, we focus our efforts on supporting communities to implement sustainable natural resource management and promoting conservation compatible livelihoods.		<p>Conservation compatible livelihoods opportunities such as honey production and apple farming were developed, with honey production already generating 200 euros per year for 180 households in the Guassa Area.</p> <p>In the Guassa Community Conservation Area, FZS supports an office for the local government with finance and logistics. The work has resulted in a drop of illegal incidents like harvesting of grass or grazing cattle in the protected area.</p> <p>For the first time since the Guassa area was officially protected, it was opened for one month to the local population to legally cut the Guassa grass. Thousands of community members benefited considerably, thereby bringing home the economic advantages of the conservation of the area.</p>



The grass-eating Geladas live only in the Ethiopian highlands.



FZS helps people in Guassa to earn a sustainable living, e.g. through beekeeping.



Honey provides income in many forms: here as traditional honey beer.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS & PROGRAMMES IN AFRICA 2015

COUNTRY	PROJECT	WHAT IS IT ABOUT?		CONSERVATION SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS IN 2015
TANZANIA	Serengeti Conservation Project Project area: 14,750 km² (Park), 25,000 km² (Ecosystem) Project start: 1957	Our work in Serengeti National Park dates back to the 1950’s when Professor Bernhard Grzimek started his ground-breaking work for the protection of the region. Today, we are continuing our work in Serengeti by working closely with the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA) and providing critical financial and logistical support and know-how for resource protection, ecological and threat monitoring, and park management. Anti-poaching strategies are a focus of our work.		<p>Funding by the Wyss Foundation ensured that we were able to provide new equipment and vehicles to rangers and enhance the overall protection of the national park.</p> <p>A dedicated manager for the Seronera law enforcement vehicle workshop, an integral part of park protection efforts, was recruited at the beginning of 2015. He has been able to optimize processes and rehabilitate the workshop.</p> <p>The FZS Cessna 182 is once again operational and flying within the Serengeti ecosystem to support law enforcement. Additionally, since the end of 2015, there is also a Husky aircraft available for anti-poaching surveillance flights.</p>
TANZANIA	Serengeti Ecosystem Management Project start: 2005	<p>Local communities living in the Serengeti Ecosystem 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 developing sustainable use is critical for ecosystem integrity.</p> <p>The Serengeti Ecosystem Management Project (SEMA) explores pathways both for protection of natural resources and alternative conservation compatible livelihood opportunities.</p>		<p>Advanced training for the management of the Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) Makao und Ikona was conducted. The Sarina Community Forest Reserve in Loliondo was established and supported.</p> <p>Village Game Scouts have been trained in the Makao WMA and Sarina Forest. This has already resulted in an arrest for ivory poaching.</p> <p>10 new COCOBA groups have been formed and 26 members from 6 COCOBA groups formed an “elephant task force” to protect crops from elephants.</p> <p>80 COCOBA members have been trained in beekeeping. Honey has been identified as a potential source of income and a product for a Serengeti-brand.</p> <p>Hydraform bricks are being used as material for cost effective and environmentally-friendly construction of office and staff-housing buildings for Serengeti National Park (SENAPA).</p> <p>The SENAPA outreach and GIS departments received three new Land Cruiser vehicles. FZS supported the development of a “Monitoring and Evaluation” plan for the park.</p>
TANZANIA	Selous Conservation Project Project area: 54,600 km² (Game Reserve), 100,000 km² (Ecosystem) Project start: 2012	The Selous Game Reserve is one of the largest remaining wilderness areas in the world and harbours approximately 40% of Tanzania’s total elephant population. Poaching has decimated the number of elephants. FZS and the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) jointly work to enhance anti-poaching measures and to introduce more effective monitoring and management tools in order to re-establish security for the recovery of elephants and other wildlife.		<p>The Wildlife Division’s Cessna 206 was completely overhauled by FZS and is now deployed again in Selous Game Reserve with an FZS pilot. Additionally, since the end of 2015, there is also a Husky aircraft available for anti-poaching surveillance flights which has been on duty since April 2016.</p>



For decades now the biennial wildebeest census has been one of the FZS’ tasks in the Serengeti, working together with the Tanzanian Wildlife Research Institute.



Using a camera fitted in the bottom of the aircraft, the herds of wildebeest are photographed and then counted using a computer.



The wildebeest migration through the Serengeti remains a breath-taking spectacle.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS & PROGRAMMES IN AFRICA 2015

COUNTRY	PROJECT	WHAT IS IT ABOUT?		CONSERVATION SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS IN 2015
TANZANIA	Mahale Conservation Project Project area: 1,613 km ² (Park), 19,446 km ² (Ecosystem) Project start: 2004	The Mahale Mountains National Park on the shores of Lake Tanganyika is the core of the Greater Mahale Ecosystem (GME). This is globally recognised as a biodiversity hotspot and home to the most important chimpanzee population in East Africa. In recent years, FZS has been focusing on assisting in widening the area under protection within the GME to include community forest and wildlife areas.		87 village forest scouts were trained on the job and 3 were sent for 3-month external training at Wildlife College. In preparation for the gazettement of a new protected area in Mpanda for forest and chimpanzee protection, natural resource assessments and data analysis have been carried out. The project mentors 50 COCOBA groups each of 30 to 40 members.
TANZANIA & ZAMBIA	CREATE – Conservation Research for East Africa’s Threatened Ecosystems Project start: 2011	CREATE investigates key questions regarding inter-relationships between poverty reduction, human-wildlife conflict, and environmental conservation within two ecosystems: Serengeti in Tanzania and North Luangwa in Zambia.		Four COCOBA groups have been formed, trained and mentored in Mukungule Game Management Area in Zambia, each currently comprising 24 to 30 members. Results from research conducted by CREATE-supported Masters and PhD students have been disseminated. A comprehensive database was developed to house the long-term collation and analysis of information from both protein source surveys and COCOBA impact surveys in Tanzania.
ZAMBIA	North Luangwa Conservation Programme Project area: 4,636 km ² (Park), 55,000 km ² (Ecosystem) Project start: 1986	The Programme protects the North Luangwa National Park and five adjacent Game Management Areas (GMA) forming the greater North Luangwa ecosystem. It focuses on protected area management and anti-poaching law enforcement to conserve the large population of elephants and the reintroduced black rhinos. We also strive to improve sustainable management and long-term benefits for the local communities in the GMAs.		Park scouts and the rhino and elephant protection unit received new equipment and advanced training and law enforcement operations were enhanced through infrastructure improvements. A 2-dog canine unit to detect ivory, bush-meat, firearms and other traded wildlife was set up in 2015 for road blocks and village sweeps. A state-of-the-art control room for monitoring law enforcement operations and secure radio systems have been developed. The intelligence and investigations unit was developed and supported and has secured 22 convictions with 5 year terms for elephant poaching or ivory trading in the North Luangwa ecosystem.
ZIMBABWE	Gonarezhou Conservation Programme Project area: 5,053 km ² (Park), 100,000 km ² (Ecosystem) Project start: 2007	Gonarezhou National Park is the second largest national park in Zimbabwe. The spectacular landscape is home to a globally significant population of African elephants. The park also forms an integral part of one of the largest conservation areas in the world – the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park. FZS measures include: support for park planning, increasing law enforcement coverage and effectiveness, maintenance and improvements of infrastructure, provision and maintenance of equipment, increasing ecological knowledge and developing tourism.		To achieve long-term financial and ecological sustainability of the project area, the Gonarezhou Conservation Trust is being developed. 22 new rangers, all originating from local communities, passed a 7-week training course. The group of cadet rangers arrested eight poachers during the patrol exercises alone. The elephant population grew significantly and poaching in the park was kept under control, despite clear indications of a surge regionally, specifically in neighbouring Mozambique. The Gonarezhou canine unit was established and tracker dogs support the fight against trafficking of illegal wildlife products.



The Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe is justly called the "land of the elephants"; it is home to a large and growing elephant population.



FZS ensures effective logistics and sufficient numbers of qualified park rangers in Gonarezhou.

EUROPE &
CENTRAL ASIA

CHANGING NATURE

In densely populated Germany, wilderness areas, where natural processes still occur, are rare. Even so, efforts to recreate wilderness are increasing. We also work to ensure that the wilderness areas and large pristine forests of Eastern Europe are not lost.

■ 9 Projects

■ 6 Project Countries

¹ Albania

² Belarus

³ Germany

⁴ Kazakhstan

⁵ Romania

⁶ Ukraine

■ Wilderness Online

www.wildnis-in-deutschland.de





New wilderness: Lieberoser Heide, Brandenburg.

FROM THE FIELD WILDERNESS IN GERMANY

Working Together for Wilderness



Wilderness in Germany? Is that even possible anymore? Of course, if you mean expansive, untouched natural landscapes, on the scale of the African savannah or the deep jungle of the South American rainforest, you won't find it in Germany. But there is a place for wilderness – even in Germany. Most Germans see it that way, too, according to a nature awareness study conducted by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Infrastructure and Nuclear Security (Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, Bau und Reaktorsicherheit, BMUB). And we are in luck: whereas cleared rainforest can take up to six million years to regenerate fully, European forests can develop wilderness-like systems within a few hundred years. The important thing is that rewilding be allowed to unfold on a large scale.

The Situation on the Ground

Creating wilderness in a densely populated country like Germany, where various forms of agriculture dominate the landscape, is certainly no simple task. There already exist a few patches of wilderness in national parks or lands in trusts, like those of the Brandenburg Wilderness Foundation (Stiftung Naturlandschaften Brandenburg). But this is only about one half of one percent of Germany's total area. The German government has committed to two percent by 2020. This ambitious target is part of the government's National Strategy for Biodiversity, and FZS is helping to achieve it. From a political perspective, Germany is leading the way in Europe in the effort to create more places where nature can be wild again. Implementation remains difficult, however.

Steps Taken in 2015

In mid-2014 FZS announced its new Wilderness in Germany project devoted to creating wilderness areas in Germany. The idea is to secure land for rewilding, but also to motivate people to support and get involved in promoting wilderness.



FZS is promoting the topic of wilderness in Germany with its "Wilderness communication" project.

The first and most important step was to find strong partners. As a small organization, you can achieve more by taking advantage of networks. FZS has succeeded in uniting 16 nature conservation organizations – including BUND, DUH, Greenpeace, NABU, and WWF – in a common initiative dedicated to creating more wilderness in Germany. FZS coordinates and spearheads this initiative. Early 2016 saw the launch of the common internet portal www.wildnis-in-deutschland.de. This resource collects for the first time in one place a range of information on the topic of wilderness in Germany and shows how new wilderness areas can be created. The website provides organizations, institutions, and journalists with access to scientifically grounded content, high-quality images, and background material. The portal will be updated and expanded on a continuing basis and will also help grass-roots initiatives produce informational and awareness-raising materials specifically for their local situation. There is still a great need to create awareness about wilderness, and wilderness opponents continue to unnecessarily stir up fears that are hard to abate with rational arguments. That is why we also advise national park initiatives (for example in the Hunsrück, Senne, and Steigerwald regions) and help them finance and create informational material. We also assist them in public relations work and organizing actions (such as informational events and excursions). We offer our expertise on site and engage with organizers and decision-makers. This is the only way to provide the kind of qualified, locally-specific support that will get results. In Hunsrück, a low mountain range in the federal state of Rheinland-Pfalz, we financed the purchase of bat detectors that will help determine the impact of the new national park.

Looking Ahead

The momentum for wilderness is good. Nature conservation organizations are united in their support of the two percent target, and the general public also wants more wilderness. FZS has helped pave the way and has advanced to one of the main proponents for wilderness in Germany.

Now it's about getting the job done by securing specific pieces of land. FZS has been working to identify appropriate areas for rewilding and to expand existing wilderness areas. In individual cases, we also help fund the purchase of land. There is enormous potential for creating wilderness. The problem is often accessing adequate funding on short notice for the acquisition of large areas, where we are talking about prices in the millions. We are in the process of creating suitable financing strategies.



Two decades of wilderness development. Using a picture taken in 1992, Andreas Hauße of the Brandenburg Wilderness Foundation shows how nature has recaptured the Jüterbog military training area.

The federal states also have the responsibility to allow nature to unfold on public lands. And on this level as well, FZS is a partner to regional associations and governments. In Hesse, for instance, FZS has joined with the regional chapters of BUND, NABU, as well as Greenpeace, and the WWF in drafting a policy for forest conservation areas that was presented to the Ministry of the Environment in Hesse. The concept already materialized and has led to the designation of a 1000 ha forest wilderness reserve in the "Hinterlandswald" near Frankfurt. Instead of decommissioning many small areas, the idea is to remove large, contiguous areas of forest from production in order to create refuge for species requiring more habitat. FZS is also working closely with conservation organizations in other federal states to put the topic of wilderness and large forest conservation areas on the political agenda.

Still, there is a lot to do. We are a long way away from two-percent wilderness in Germany. We will judge our success by the progress made toward this target by 2020.

FROM THE FIELD

ALTYN DALA CONSERVATION INITIATIVE, KAZAKHSTAN

Protecting the 'Serengeti of the North'



Even experienced rangers in the Altyn Dala project area in Kazakhstan were surprised at the sheer will to survive displayed by saiga calves in the spring of 2015. In the middle of a dramatic mass die-off that led to the death of more than 200,000 antelopes within just a few weeks, a number of very young calves demonstrated how well they are adapted to even the most extreme conditions. The calves were only able to nurse for a few days before their mothers died. The large-scale wave of deaths was caused by normally harmless bacteria found in the bodies of saigas. It appears that the deadly infection did not pass immediately from mother's milk to calf and several dozen calves were able to survive in the expansive steppe landscape. FZS rangers sighted a number of groups with young saigas a few weeks after the catastrophe. Already grazing on grass and other plants, they made their way across the wide-open spaces of Kazakhstan. These young saigas provide a glimmer of hope that the population will be able to recover over the next few years.

The Situation on the Ground

During the last ice age saiga antelopes migrated through almost all of Europe, but today only five populations remain in the northern hemisphere – three of them in Kazakhstan, the largest of which is found in the Altyn Dala project area (meaning "golden steppe" in Kazakh). To think that the saiga once passed through the sparse grasslands of central Asia in enormous herds, adapted to a harsh environment with extreme temperatures (up to -40 °C in winter, over 40 °C in summer).

Although about half a million saigas still populated Kazakhstan in the early 1990s, by 2003 the species had nearly disappeared due to poaching. Since then, the Kazakh government has dedicated itself to protecting this special species. The Frankfurt Zoological

Society has been supporting Kazakhstan in its saiga conservation efforts for almost 15 years, working closely with the Kazakh nature conservation organization ACBK (Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan). The Betpak Dala population had been recovering and had grown to encompass more than 240,000 animals. Poaching had been dramatically reduced and the government of Kazakhstan had created a number of large conservation areas in country's steppe and semi-desert regions.

The massive losses of 2015 represent a very serious setback for the preservation of this species. Migrating in May to remote areas to have their young, female saigas in the largest population were the primary victims of the devastating bacterial disease. Males, who distance themselves from the pregnant females during calving, were hit shortly thereafter. Most of the calves died with the same symptoms as their mothers or starved to death a few days after their mothers perished. FZS and our project partners and staff as well as scientists were confronted with a mystery.

Steps Taken in 2015

Coordinated by FZS and ACBK, scientists from around the world tried to figure out the precise cause of the unusual demise of so many animals. Headed by the Kazakh Research Institute for Biological Safety Problems (RIPBS), a number of different labs in



In the "Golden steppe": working in a steppe area the size of France also represents a logistical challenge for the project team.



Summer 2016: saiga mothers and their calves, well hidden in the vegetation. The population is slowly recovering.

Kazakhstan and Europe examined samples taken from the dead saigas and confirmed what had been suspected from the beginning. The bacteria *Pasteurella multocida* was the cause of death. The search for additional sources of infections, such as viruses, did not produce any results. International reference labs, among them the Pirbright Institute in England and Germany's Friedrich Loeffler Institute, also confirmed *Pasteurella* as the cause in all of the examined samples. *Pasteurella* infections occur regularly in

both wild and domestic animal populations, but a death rate of nearly 100 percent has never before been recorded. An international team led by the University of London's Royal Veterinary College and supported by FZS is trying to find an explanation for the deaths of the saigas. Climate and other environmental data are now being analysed in order to determine what led to the high toxicity of the bacteria that naturally populates the saiga respiratory system. First findings are expected over the course of 2016.

Looking Ahead

The Altyn Dala Project will be changing its focus. The first step will be to find the causes of the regularly occurring deaths of so many saigas. Early test results suggest that environmental factors played a role in the high toxicity of the *Pasteurella* bacteria. It is crucial that all necessary steps are taken to ensure that the Kazakh saiga population is able to recover to the extent that the animals are able to survive any future bacterial epidemics, which have in fact occurred a number of times over the course of the last century. One focus will be to stop poaching, which has seen a marked increase again in recent years. New anti-poaching units will be formed, ranger equipment will be augmented, and the work of individual ranger teams better coordinated. In reorganising anti-poaching efforts, we will be able to draw on the experience we have gained in FZS-projects in Africa.



Testament of the drama of May 2015. Thousands of saiga carcasses had to be buried in the steppe to prevent a possible spread of the pathogen which was unknown at the time.



A small group of saigas migrating through the vast grasslands of central Kazakhstan.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA 2015

COUNTRY	PROJECT	WHAT IS IT ABOUT?		CONSERVATION SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS IN 2015
ALBANIA	<p>Prespa Lakes Biosphere Reserve</p> <p>Project area: 250 km² (National Park), 4,500 km² (Ohrid-Prespa Biosphere Reserve)</p> <p>Project start: 2000</p>	<p>The two Prespa lakes and Lake Ohrid are among the most ecologically valuable regions in the Balkans. Yet overfishing, intensive agriculture, overgrazing, and extensive tree-cutting for firewood pose a significant threat to the area.</p> <p>In 2002, FZS played a major role in the creation of Prespa National Park. We have also worked hard to create a transborder biosphere reserve that was recognized by UNESCO in June 2014.</p>		<p>In 2015, we completed a control and information station at the entrance to the national park at the larger of the two Prespa lakes and a ranger station at the smaller lake. 15 people successfully completed their training as nature guides.</p> <p>The population has developed an overwhelmingly positive view of nature conservation. Training programmes for fishermen, beekeepers, and collectors of herbs, berries, and mushrooms in the park have played a role in this regard. In 2015, a marketing organisation was founded to improve the economic situation of these people. Thanks to the high ecological standard of the products, sellers will be able to demand good prices.</p> <p>The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has decided to fund the project region through KfW Development Bank with an additional 3.5 million euros for another five years.</p>
UKRAINE	<p>Protection of Primary Forest in the Ukrainian Carpathians</p> <p>Project area: 2,000 km² (all national parks participating in the project), 24,000 km² (Ukrainian Carpathians)</p> <p>Project start: 2013</p>	<p>The international demand for timber will only continue to increase and it is just a matter of time until European companies start large-scale logging in the Ukrainian Carpathians. We have a short window of opportunity to expand and strengthen conservation areas encompassing what is up to now unprotected wilderness in the Ukrainian part of the Carpathians.</p> <p>FZS and our project partner intend to integrate a total of another 100,000 hectares of forest wilderness into existing conservation areas. The project goal is thus to expand 9 national parks in the Ukrainian Carpathians in order to protect valuable forest wilderness and to support and strengthen conservation area management structures.</p>		<p>In 2014, we prepared the planned expansion of the conservation areas. Last year, we focused on garnering support for the expansion among local residents, property owners, other users of land, as well as the responsible authorities.</p> <p>Our project partner USPB (Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds) made good progress in negotiations with the national park authorities as well as local forestry and hunting agencies. Many of the authorities pledged their support for the planned expansions of the conservation areas and a number of partnership agreements were signed. Thanks to a comprehensive regional information campaign, large parts of the population have been convinced of the ecological and economic benefits of the national park.</p> <p>Thanks to the financial support of FZS, 2015 saw the purchase and delivery to national park administrations of new “batcorders” for capturing the calls of bats, new vehicles, camera traps, and office equipment.</p>



Wild nature in the Ukrainian Carpathians. Virtually untouched European forest still exists here.



Bison are being reintroduced in the Skolovskiy Beskidy National Park in Ukraine. They roam freely through the forests and conservationists on the ground hope that they will unite with the population in the Polish part of the Carpathian Mountains in a few years.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA 2015

COUNTRY	PROJECT	WHAT IS IT ABOUT?		CONSERVATION SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS IN 2015
GERMANY	<p>Wilderness in Germany</p> <p>Project start: 2014</p>	<p>The German government has committed to allowing nature to unfold according to its own designs on two percent of the country’s land mass. Currently, less than one percent of Germany’s area is wilderness. And by 2020, the goal is: five percent of forested lands are allowed to develop naturally.</p> <p>We can achieve these goals by creating new national parks or converting former military training grounds to wilderness. Beyond the 16 existing national parks there is the potential to establish additional parks. FZS is playing an important role in coordinating and bringing together different “wilderness actors” and in promoting and raising public awareness about wilderness.</p>		<p>At the beginning of the year, the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz, BfN) committed funding for a ‘Wilderness Communication Project’. The goal of the project is to create awareness among decision-makers and multipliers on the topic of wilderness in Germany. In 2015, we were able to secure commitments from 16 nature conservation organisations (including BUND, NABU, and WWF). The resulting joint internet portal www.wildnis-in-deutschland.de has been live since the beginning of 2016.</p> <p>In collaboration with BUND, Greenpeace, NABU, and WWF, FZS developed a strategy for establishing larger forest conservation areas in Hessa. The strategy was brought into the debate on creating wilderness areas in government-owned forest. Natural processes will be allowed to unfold in these areas and they will not be exploited in any way. Thus, we hope to create large, contiguous forest areas on Hessa’s government-owned lands.</p> <p>We intensified our partnership with the friends’ association for the planned Senne National Park last year. FZS supported the initiative with expertise and strategic planning. A useful resource in this regard is the FZS-financed website www.wissen-nationalpark.de. The portal, which was developed by EUROPARC Deutschland and FZS went online in 2015.</p>
GERMANY	<p>Wilderness in Brandenburg</p> <p>Project area: 128 km² (Foundation Lands)</p> <p>Project start: 1996</p>	<p>Decommissioned military training grounds offer ideal opportunities to create wilderness. The Brandenburg Wilderness Foundation (Stiftung Naturlandschaften Brandenburg, SNLB) is committed to purchasing such former military sites and allowing nature to take its course without human interventions. The result is landscapes that have all the characteristics of wilderness. In this way the SNLB is playing a significant role in helping the German government achieve its wilderness goals.</p> <p>Tomorrow’s wilderness is developing on the foundation’s 12,800 hectares and wolves have already begun to return. These undisturbed areas also provide important refuge for fish otters, beavers, white-tailed eagles, and cranes. FZS is cofounder of the Brandenburg Wilderness Foundation and is one of the organisation’s most important partners.</p>		<p>The SNLB has had a full-time chief executive since mid-2015. This represents a new chapter for the foundation – whose business affairs have up to now been conducted by a board working on an honorary basis – and for the large-scale development of wilderness in Germany. The completion of forest restoration measures on foundation lands at Lieberose Heath near the eastern German city of Cottbus was an important step in this process.</p> <p>A special highlight last year was a wilderness conference marking the foundation’s 15th anniversary that was held under the auspices of Minister of the Environment Dr. Barbara Hendricks at the state chancellery in Potsdam, Germany. Over 200 participants discussed current issues and challenges around the topic of wilderness conservation in Germany.</p> <p>We were unable to begin planning the international nature conservation exhibition INA in 2015, because the new regional government in Brandenburg has not yet conveyed its support.</p>
GERMANY	<p>Hohe Schrecke – Old-Growth Forest with a Future</p> <p>Project area: 16 km² (Wilderness Area), 73 km² (Total Forest Area)</p> <p>Project start: 2009</p>	<p>Hohe Schrecke is an approximately 7,300 hectare contiguous forest in northern Thuringia. Since the area was not used intensively for hundreds of years and spent the past 50 years as a military no-go zone, very old and relatively undisturbed forest has been conserved.</p> <p>Since 2009, the David Nature Foundation (Naturstiftung David) has headed the Hohe Schreck conservation project, which FZS has supported from the very beginning. The goal is to closely link large, unexploited, and sustainably used forest areas. We hope to see wilderness develop on at least 25 percent of the forested area (2,000 hectares) by 2023.</p>		<p>With its very old forest areas and wilderness-like structures, Wiegental is the heart of Hohe Schrecke. Thanks to co-financing provided by FZS donors, in 2015 the David Nature Foundation was able to secure another private forest area of about five hectares in Wiegental. Now totalling 242 hectares, the largest part of the wilderness area has been conserved for the long-term – here the forest can develop naturally.</p> <p>Visitors will also have access to this old-growth forest. Last year steps were taken to expand and modernise the trail system. Under the banner ‘less is more’, fewer trails will be marked in order to keep larger forest areas undisturbed.</p> <p>The forest strategy developed by the David Nature Foundation is also designed to take into consideration conservation issues outside the wilderness areas. Municipal governments have agreed to implement the strategy at no cost to the foundation.</p>
GERMANY	<p>Günztal Biotope Network – Bavaria</p> <p>Project area: 707 km² (Biotop Network)</p> <p>Project start: 2004</p>	<p>The Günztal Biotope Network (Biotopverbund Günztal) is devoted to preserving and enhancing biodiversity in Bavaria’s most extensive stream system. In order to achieve this, a 92-kilometer biotope network will be developed stretching from the Allgäu region to the Danube Valley. The Günztal Cultural Landscape Foundation (Stiftung KulturLandschaft Günztal), which FZS has been supporting for years, is working to achieve this goal by purchasing land, creating natural spaces, and implementing species protection projects. The foundation also advises and supports local partners, such as associations, communities, government agencies, and farmers in nature conservation matters. These practical conservation activities are flanked by intensive public relations and environmental education work.</p>		<p>As in years past, in 2015 the Günztal Cultural Landscape Foundation was able to expand its land conservation efforts. The purchase of land and lease agreements now ensure the protection of about 70 hectares of land in Günztal. Working with FlächenAgentur Günztal, the foundation has in exchange provided 35 hectares of compensation land for building in the region.</p> <p>In the context of a new project of the German Environmental Foundation (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt, DBU), conservation of meadows is garnering special attention. In partnership with land-users and specialised government agencies, the foundation is formulating strategies to conserve and create meadows. The idea is to create valuable habitat that will foster greater biodiversity in the floodplains of the Günz river and its tributaries.</p>

CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA 2015

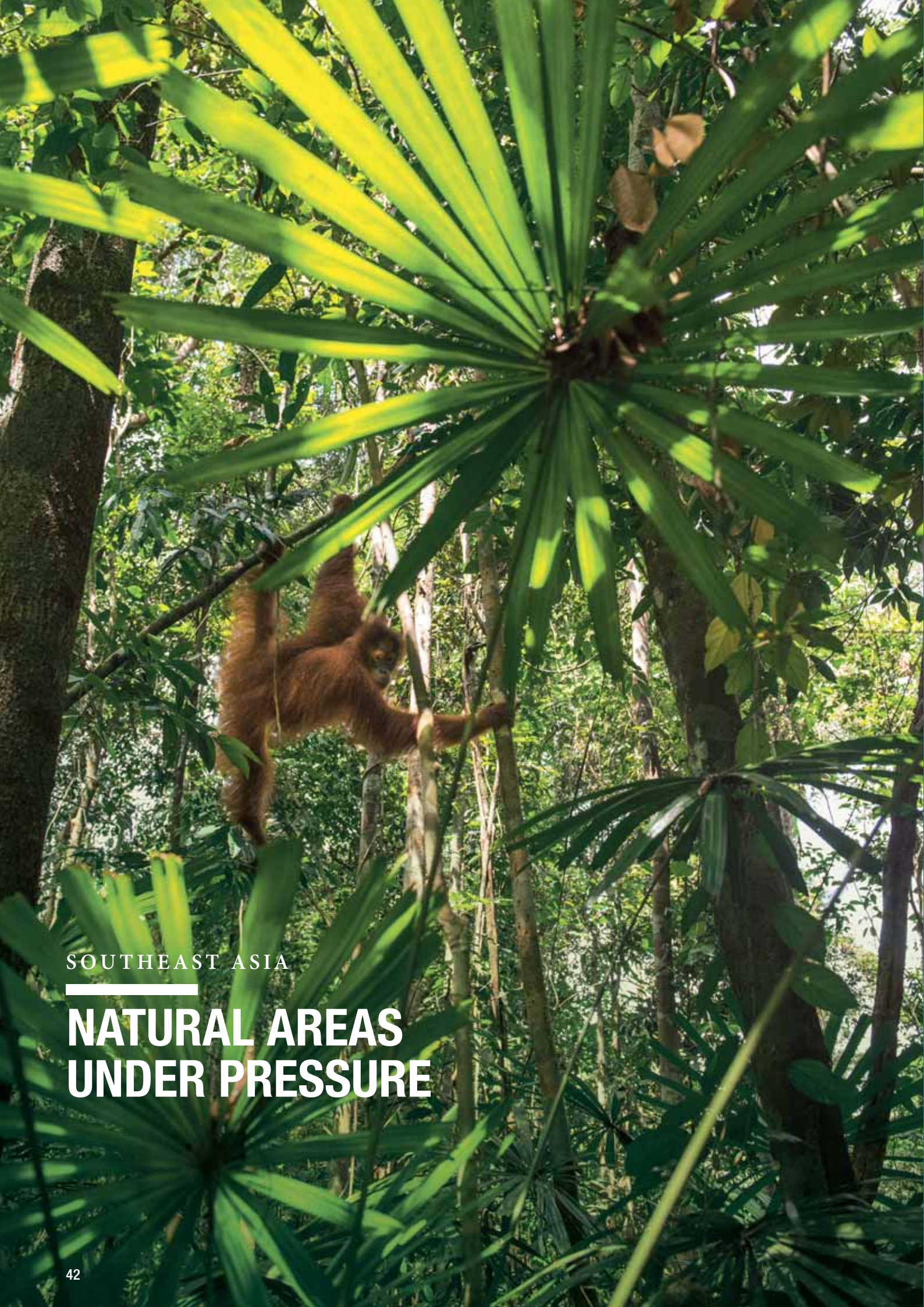
COUNTRY	PROJECT	WHAT IS IT ABOUT?		CONSERVATION SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS IN 2015
KAZAKHSTAN	<p>Protection of Steppe and Saiga Antelopes in Kazakhstan</p> <p>Project area: 55,000 km² (Conservation Areas), 560,000 km² (Total Altyn Dala Region)</p> <p>Project start: 2002</p>	<p>Most of Eurasia's natural steppe landscape is located in Kazakhstan. It is estimated that in the 1970s approximately one million saiga antelopes lived there. Kazakhstan is still the home of most of the global population of saigas – even though a decade ago poachers killed more than 90% of the population. In 2002, the saiga was in danger of disappearing and was included in the IUCN red list as 'critically endangered'.</p> <p>FZS collaborates in conservation initiatives with the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), as well as Fauna & Flora International (FFI) in the Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative. We also support the Kazakhstan government in its conservation measures. This international partnership project is committed to protecting Kazakhstan's unique grasslands and the key species for which they provide habitat.</p>		<p>For the Altyn Dala project, 2015 was marked by catastrophe. Within just a few days in May, more than 200,000 saiga antelopes died in the vast grasslands of central Kazakhstan – that's about 90% of the population. Mass deaths on this scale are unknown for other large mammal species.</p> <p>Headed by the Research Institute for Biological Safety Problems (RIBSP), various labs in Kazakhstan as well as European reference labs evaluated samples from dead saigas and confirmed what had been suspected from the beginning. The culprit was the bacteria <i>Pasteurella multocida</i>. Efforts to identify other sources of infection proved fruitless.</p> <p>An international team of scientists is working to explain in detail the saiga deaths, led by the Royal Veterinary College of the University of London with major support by FZS. In order to find out why this bacteria, which occurs naturally in the respiratory systems of saigas, became toxic, climate and other environmental factors from the past decade are being analysed. Initial results are expected in 2016.</p>
ROMANIA	<p>Creation of a Forest Conservation Area in Romania</p> <p>Project area: 2,000 km² (National Park und Natura 2000 Areas)</p> <p>Project start: 2012</p>	<p>The forested parts of the Carpathians – particularly in Ukraine, Slovakia and Romania – represent Europe's most important wilderness areas. Massive clear-cuts in recent years have led to the loss of valuable forest. The Carpathia Conservation Foundation (FCC) is planning a 100,000 hectare private conservation area around Piatra Craiului National Park. This conservation area will flank government protection efforts.</p>		<p>In 2015, we were able to facilitate the purchase of another 1,400 hectares of forest. At present, the "Fundatia Conservation Carpathia" foundation (FCC) owns about 17,000 hectares of forest.</p> <p>Last year, we were not able to assume the stewardship of the 200,000 hectare Fagaras NATURA 2000 area. The delay was due to ongoing legal proceedings.</p> <p>FZS also helped upgrade a management structure for the FCC that will allow the organisation to keep pace with growing challenges.</p>
BELARUS	<p>Protection of Bialowieza/ Bielaviežškaja Pušča Wilderness</p> <p>Project area: 1,500 km² (National Park, Belarussian side), 2,000 km² (Total Forest Area)</p> <p>Project start: 2012</p>	<p>The extensive Bialowieza forest system is one of Europe's last remaining natural lowland forest areas.</p> <p>FZS supports the national park administration on the Belarussian side of the wilderness area (Bielaviežškaja Pušča) with the goal of returning it to its natural state through river and fen-mire restoration projects.</p>		<p>In 2015, we were able to achieve a moratorium on wolf hunting within the borders of the entire park (153,000 hectares). We also proceeded with preparations for the rewetting of the drained Dziki Nikar wetlands. Over the course of 2016-2017, 1,100 hectares of previously cultivated land will be returned to their natural state.</p> <p>Last year, we fitted five wolves with radio transmitters to find out what impact the hunting ban has on their behaviour. Also, for the first time, bats were equipped with transmitters in order to locate their colonies. Initial observations show that very old and dead trees represent important habitat for bats – an important argument for the preservation of wilderness areas and against clearing the forest of deadwood.</p>



The wounds of intensive forestry have to be healed in the Romanian Carpathians. Trees and bushes are being planted to prevent erosion of the deforested slopes.



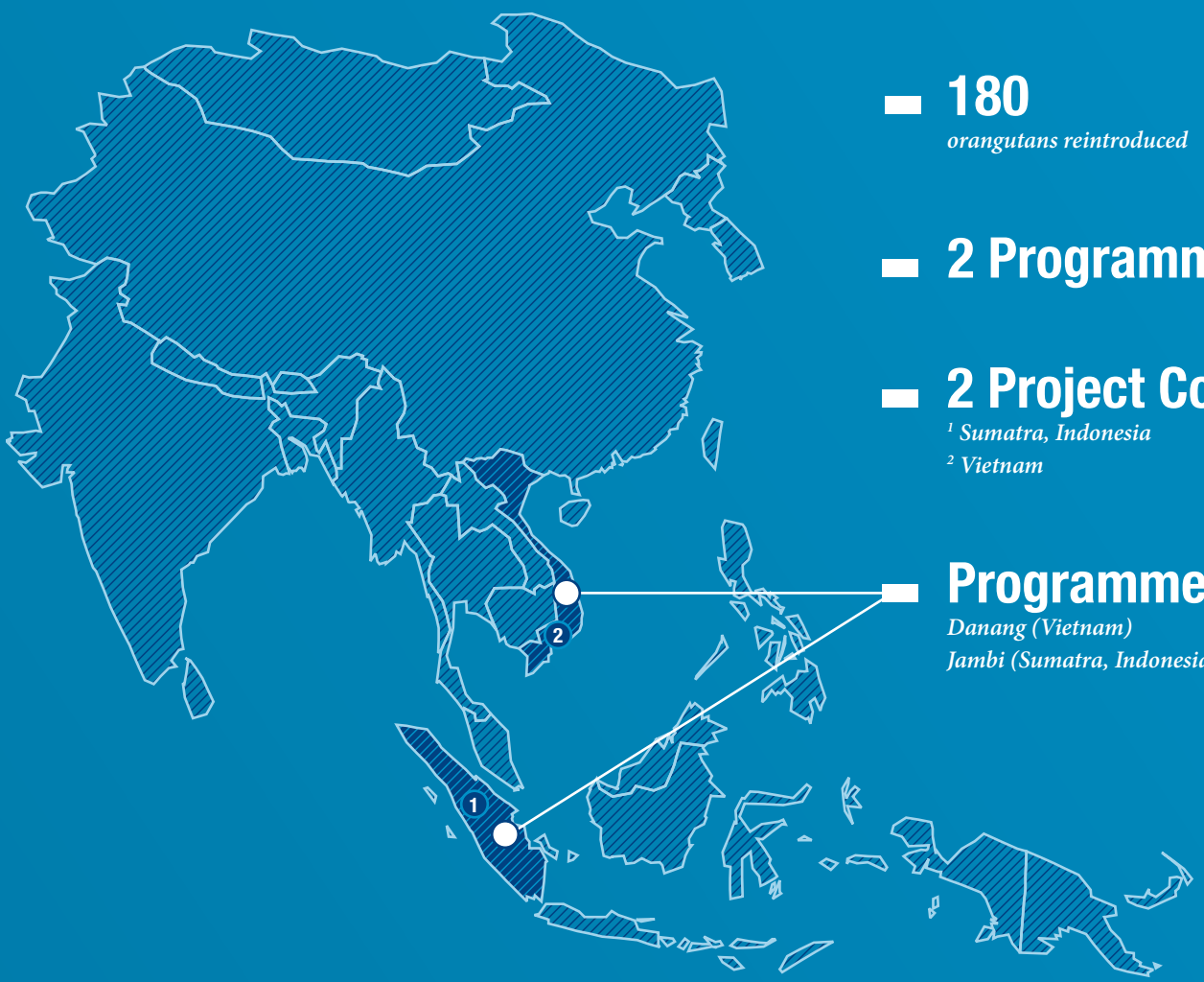
The Fundatia Conservation Carpathia foundation promotes sustainable tourism in the Romanian Carpathian Mountains, e.g. by building tourist huts.



SOUTHEAST ASIA

NATURAL AREAS
UNDER PRESSURE

Southeast Asian countries are characterised by their high population density and increasing pressure on the remaining natural areas. Protected zones represent the final areas of retreat for wild animals. However, these are becoming isolated islands in a sea of oil palm or acacia plantations, agricultural land and mineral mining areas.



■ **39,000 Hectares**
of forest have been protected since 2015 in a conservation concession in Bukit Tigapuluh

■ **180**
orangutans reintroduced

■ **2 Programmes**

■ **2 Project Countries**
¹ Sumatra, Indonesia
² Vietnam

■ **Programme Offices**
Danang (Vietnam)
Jambi (Sumatra, Indonesia)



FROM THE FIELD

BUKIT TIGAPULUH CONSERVATION PROGRAMME, SUMATRA

More Forest for Orangutans



In the jungle school: trainer Siti Fatimazzahra carrying a young orangutan into the forest. Before being reintroduced he must learn the knowledge and skills that wild orangutans would naturally possess.

It was the best news of the year that reached us in late July at FZS headquarters in Frankfurt. Finally. On 24 July 2015, the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry signed the license for an ecosystem restoration concession bordering directly on Sumatra's Bukit Tigapuluh National Park with a term of 60 years. The license creates a special kind of concession designed to protect 39,000 hectares of natural forest and small agricultural plots from deforestation and conversion to industrial plantations.

Five years of intensive lobbying are behind us. In collaboration with WWF Indonesia, FZS – via our sister organisations KEHUS and the PT Alam Bukit Tigapuluh company – now holds management rights for the land and can implement protection measures out our discretion.

The approximately 145,000 hectare Bukit Tigapuluh National Park is known as 'the land of 30 hills' and is hard to traverse in many places, but the newly secured lowland rainforest is much more accessible. The buffer zone thus provides welcome habitat for the last Sumatran elephants, since these animals tend to avoid steep slopes. The concession area is also a key habitat for other rare and threatened species, such as Sumatran orangutans, Sumatran tigers, and many other charismatic species.

Situation on the Ground

Sumatra is among the biodiversity hotspots on our planet. An astounding abundance of plant and animal species exist here. Yet over the past 20 years, the island has come under enormous pressure. Primary forest has given way to palm oil, acacia and rubber tree plantations. Sumatra's forest area has shrunk more than 70 percent – and with it the habitat upon which the wildlife depends. In order to counter this development and conserve natural habitat, where it is still feasible FZS has been expanding its orangutan reintroduction project to encompass a comprehensive landscape conservation programme.

Steps Taken in 2015

The license to operate an ecosystem restoration concession marks a new phase in the FZS team's work in Sumatra. Our goal is to protect from human impact as much species-rich, natural forest as possible. Of course, the concession lands are also home to indigenous communities whose population cultivate fields and small plantations to support themselves. With our new management rights, we will have the unique opportunity to promote sustainable practices.

That is why the focus in 2015 was on agroforest projects, community development, reforestation, and the monitoring of forest cover and large mammals. FZS organised, for example, four praxis-oriented, ten-month field schools for sustainable agriculture. We held five reforestation workshops, since the knowledge of indigenous peoples – about suitable trees for collecting seeds for instance – is key for planning tree nurseries. In two communities we helped improve infrastructure by installing with village inhabitants 50 solar panels and 41 drinking water systems. We also maintained bridges and roads and supplied schools with teaching materials.

The new forest areas on the park border also meant that we needed to create additional ranger capacity for the Wildlife Protection Unit. As a part of their jungle patrol training, rangers received intensive training in forest fire-fighting.



In demand: the fruit of the oil palm. Its cultivation in giant plantations is destroying the rainforest of Sumatra on a grand scale.



Lessons in nature: Hery Trijoko of the FZS "mobile education unit" knows how to inspire the children with his stories about the animals of the forest. He visits the schools around the Bukit Tigapuluh National Park on a regular basis.

The core of the Sumatra programme continues to be orangutan reintroduction. Almost 180 confiscated orangutans have passed through the 'jungle school' and been released into the wild. Including apes born in the wild, the population now amounts to about 200.

Our Sumatran elephant protection project also continues to be successful. Here the focus is on mitigating conflicts between humans and elephants in Bukit Tigapuluh. Our partnership with the local population has paid off – 178 farmers have joined the network and villagers reported 186 cases of human-elephant conflict and poaching. The FZS 'elephant team' records all cases and seeks help on site. The early warning system has been effective in regularly locating the six elephants outfitted with satellite transmitters. The system informs villages and individual farmers about the proximity of elephants. This allows local people to prepare and implement a number of tactics learned in our workshops to scare away the large visitors.

Looking Ahead

In 2016, we will focus foremost on enhancing management structures and creating a work programme for the ecosystem restoration concession. If we succeed in establishing sustainable land use, we will be able to conserve existing natural forest for the long term and reduce pressure on the park itself. The granting of the concession in 2015 has provided us with a powerful tool to conserve the habitats of highly endangered species, such as orangutans, Sumatran tigers, and Sumatran elephants. Now it is a matter of seizing this opportunity and making the most of it. Our Australian partners The Orangutan Project (TOP) and Perth Zoo support our work substantially. The German Ministry of the Environment (BMUB) has granted funds for the management of the restoration concession through their international climate initiative IKI via KfW.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA 2015

COUNTRY	PROJECT	WHAT IS IT ABOUT?		CONSERVATION SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS IN 2015
SUMATRA	Bukit Tigapuluh Landscape Conservation Programme	The Bukit Tigapuluh Ecosystem represents the largest contiguous lowland rainforest on Sumatra. It is the home of Sumatran elephants and Sumatran tigers. Orangutans have also returned in the recent years. Our work focuses on the protection of habitat in the national park and surrounding areas.		On 24 July 2015, the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry approved the creation of an ecosystem restoration concession with a lease of 60 years. This special type of forest concession is designed to protect forested land. The concession gives FZS and WWF the ability and responsibility to protect 39,000 hectares of natural forest from logging.
	Orangutan reintroduction			The orangutan reintroduction programme has now trained and released 180 apes that were illegally captured and later confiscated. Including births in the wild, the population has now grown to about 200 animals.
	Human-elephant-conflict mitigation			In 2015, there were already 178 people from the villages involved in a network created to reduce conflicts between the human population and elephants.
	Environmental education			In the context of the environmental education project, village schools in the park's buffer zone were visited on a regular basis. Puppet theatre, games, and lectures introduced the schoolchildren to environmental topics. FZS also organised teacher-training workshops designed to integrate environmental education into the curriculum.
VIETNAM	Forest Protection in the Central Highlands Region	Vietnam's central mountain region still boasts large, contiguous forest areas in what is otherwise a densely populated and intensively farmed country. The mountains offer important refuge for a rich variety of plant and animal species that have become scarce elsewhere. FZS has been supporting the management of Kon Ka Kinh National Park since 2010.		FZS's greatest success in Vietnam last year was the signing of a five-year cooperation agreement with the Vietnamese Ministry of Forestry in Hanoi. This official accord will accelerate our work in the Kon Ka Kinh region. In 2015, we continued our ongoing support of park rangers with training and equipment and participated in park patrols that often stretch out over several days. We are phasing in SMART, a software that will make the monitoring of illegal activities, such as logging and poaching much more efficient.



Sumatran elephants hide away in the forest and are difficult to observe. As a result of the steadily shrinking forest, they are increasingly venturing onto farmers' fields in search of food.



There are increasing cases of conflict between elephants and farmers. The FZS employees try to mediate, educating the people and working with them on strategies aimed at keeping the elephants out of the fields.

SOUTH AMERICA

DIVERSITY AND WILDERNESS
ON A VAST SCALE



South America still offers phenomenal biodiversity in gigantic areas of virgin forest in the form of the Amazon rainforest. It contains as yet undiscovered species, valuable rainforests and peoples living in voluntary isolation. We want to make sure that the natural treasures of South America are conserved for future generations.

- **1990**
More than 25 years ago FZS began its involvement in Peru with a project aimed at studying the giant otter
- **5,000 Metres**
altitude range: The area covered by the FZS programme in Peru extends from the Amazon lowlands up to the high Andes
- **8.9 Million Hectares**
is the size of the Peru programme area
- **4 Project Countries**
*¹ Brasilien
² Colombia
³ Guyana
⁴ Peru*
- **Programme Office**
Cusco is the home base of our Peruvian sister organisation AVISA



FROM THE FIELD

NATURE CONSERVATION IN PERU

From the Andes to the Amazon Lowlands



11-year-old Ronaldo emphatically slam dunks a plastic bottle into the red box. Recycling is on the syllabus today at José Baquijano y Carrillo elementary school in San José de Sahuay, and Ronaldo and his friend Soledad are learning about the value of resources and how to conserve them. The game with the plastic bottle is just one activity in a workshop on climate and recycling – it's also about the animals native to the area. And the children are clearly having fun with their instructor from FZS, who is on site to teach today. Last year, a total of 280 children from the Mapacho Valley in the buffer zone around Manú National Park took part in educational programmes conducted by the Frankfurt Zoological Society.

Situation on the Ground

Flying over the tropical rainforest of the Madre de Dios in Peru's southern Amazon region, you can't help but feel that you are passing over paradise. The vegetation is glorious, the forest diverse. One hectare of land in this region can support up to 300 different species of trees. Many animals that have become rare elsewhere live in the forests, among them jaguars, giant otters, tapirs, spider monkeys, and countless bird species. Large conservation areas have been established in recent decades – taken together some 65,000 square kilometres. Since they are remote and not easily accessible, many of these areas have retained their natural character. Outside the protected lands, however, unbridled gold mining has left huge scars in the landscape within only a few years, destroying large parts of the lowland rainforest. Again and again illegal gold mining camps have been discovered – even within the boundaries of protected areas. The Peruvian government has been destroying such illegal camps and has been for the most part successful in keeping logging and gold panning out of

the protected zones. In order to keep things this way, the FZS's rainforest protection programme “Andes to Amazon” has been supporting national agencies with equipment and ranger training. We have also built and helped maintain ranger stations. We supply additional patrols to help monitor the large protected areas and assist in the interpretation of aerial photographs.

Steps Taken in 2015

Our work focuses on the Manú, Alto Púrus, Bahuaja Sonene, and Tambopata conservation areas and the support of staff at these sites. Thanks to substantial third-party funds that supplement our own resources, in 2015 we were able to pursue initiatives in a number of areas. Special patrols were sent out to search for illegal activities. At Bahuaja Sonene, which is particularly threatened by gold panning, logging, and poaching, FZS built the strategically important control station Pamahuaca. The rangers received further training and intensive courses that included GPS applications in the field. We also provided uniforms and equipment for park rangers.

The goal of *ProBosque Manú*, a project funded by the German government's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Infrastructure and Nuclear Security (BMUB), is to protect forest and to manage natural resources in the Manú Biosphere Reserve. In 2015, we collaborated with indigenous families living in the national park to create test plots for the cultivation of trees and field crops. The idea is that these plots will be used longer and be more productive in the long run than is the case with shifting cultivation, where the continuous preparation of new fields means the loss of trees and habitat. A plan has also been developed to control and prevent fires that will be flanked



The FZS team on the way to the Yaguas Reserve. A protected area which has been supported by the FZS-Peru programme since 2015.

by environmental education campaigns aimed at reducing grass-land burning in the higher elevations of the national park. We are pleased to report that special patrols and aerial reconnaissance in remote areas of the park did not turn up any illegal activities.

In the context of supporting the education of indigenous Matsigenka in Manú National Park, we were able to build an additional wing for girls onto the existing boarding school at Boca Manú on the outskirts of the park. Erected by FZS several years ago, the school successfully prepares Matsigenka children for the leaving exam required for secondary education. At the request of parents and with financing from the Sarastro Foundation, the previously

boys-only school can now accept female pupils. An additional tutor is in place to work with the girls. The new space was completely outfitted in May 2015 and presented to the Boca Manú community. It is heartening to see that Matsigenka girls from the interior of Manú National Park will now also have access to further education.

Another important factor in protecting the diverse forests of southeastern Peru is environmental education in the communities in and around the protected areas. Creating awareness and education are crucial in order to encourage people to engage in environmentally sustainable practices when exploiting natural resources. In 2015, the FZS team taught 61 units at schools and conducted 31 excursions to Sandoval Lake in the Tambopata Reserve. 2,058 pupils and 86 teachers from 38 schools took part. The Sandoval Lake trip allows the participants to really experience the rainforest and supplements the information on the geography, history, and diversity of the protected areas that is presented in the visitor centre and in the curriculum.

Looking Ahead

Illegal logging and uncontrolled gold panning destroy forests and riverbanks and are a tremendous threat to biodiversity in the long run and the very lives of people living in the region. This is why reliable monitoring of the vast protected areas with the aid of patrols and aerial reconnaissance are crucially important in the conservation of one of the most species-rich regions on the planet. Just as important, of course, are our continued efforts to engage with indigenous inhabitants of the Madre de Dios and to promote the skills and knowledge they need to lessen their impact on the natural environment.



Eddy Torres checking a camera trap in the Bahuaja Sonene National Park. Monitoring the wild animals in the Park is an important precondition for protecting them.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN SOUTH AMERICA 2015

COUNTRY	PROJECT	WHAT IS IT ABOUT?		CONSERVATION SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS IN 2015
BRAZIL	Protection and Management of the Cantão Conservation Area Project area: 900 km ² Project start: 2013	FZS funding supports our Brazilian partner organisation Associação Instituto Araguaia, a small research and monitoring station in the Cantão Conservation Area.		<p>FZS financed the creation of a vegetation and land-use map based on aerial photography and the analysis of ground data. This map served as the foundation for the buffer zone application and demonstrated the large extent of logging outside the protected areas in recent years. The creation of a buffer zone encompassing 40,000 hectares along the Cantão and Araguaia Conservation Areas was approved at the end of the year. The buffer zone encompasses the highly threatened Cerrado savannah. About 14,000 hectares are protected at the highest level.</p> <p>Staff from the Instituto Araguaia conduct regular patrols and expeditions to remote areas of the park. Among the discoveries was an illegal fishing camp that was dismantled after the matter was settled in court.</p>
GUYANA	Development and Management of the Kanuku Protected Area Project area: 6,600 km ² Project start: 2014	The goal of the project is to conserve the species-rich rainforest in the Kanuku Mountains and to provide support in setting up a new conservation area.		<p>FZS played an active role in formulating the strategic plan for the country’s conservation areas as well as the management plan for the Kanuku Mountains and Shell Beach protected areas.</p> <p>The first rangers for the Kanuku Mountains Conservation Area and Kaieteur National Park have been selected and trained. Goals and management strategies for the new conservation areas were introduced and discussed in the surrounding indigenous communities, which have some rights of use within the protected areas.</p> <p>FZS also supports the Protected Areas Commission (PAC) in strategic planning, which is the national conservation agency. In July 2015, a partnership agreement was reached between FZS and the government of Guyana.</p>
COLOMBIA	Support of Community Rangers in Cahuinari National Park Project area: 5,760 km ² Project start: 2014	Support of the conservation area authority Parques Nacionales de Colombia in order to improve the protection and monitoring of Cahuinari National Park in the south-eastern part of the country		<p>In order to protect the giant river turtle, indigenous community rangers conduct patrols along the Rio Caquetá River. In 2015, the patrols were expanded westward, which also enhanced the visibility of the rangers in the region. Five temporary ranger camps were built on the Rio Caquetá and regular patrols were conducted along the banks of the border river both during the day and at night.</p> <p>We conducted environmental education measures in the indigenous communities and up-river villages, where there is a market for turtle eggs and meat.</p>
PERU	Rainforest Conservation Programme Andes to Amazon Project area: 65,000 km ² Project start: 2002 Giant Otter Protection	South-eastern Peru, where the Andes meet the Amazon Basin, is one of the most biodiverse regions on the planet. It is also home to indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation. The FZS’ Peru programme in south-eastern Peru now supports seven conservation areas encompassing 6.5 million hectares. The programme also performs a number of other functions in the region, including training for park rangers, environmental education, and public relations. Increasingly, we are also addressing issues around road construction and indigenous peoples living in isolation.		<p>Flights over Manú National Park show that the conservation area and its borders remain intact. FZS’ long-term commitment to supporting the conservation agency has helped Manú National Park become a bastion in a region in which many areas are being devastated by illegal gold mining and logging.</p> <p>In July, a symposium dedicated to “Nature Conservation in South Peru’s Conservation Areas” was held in Cusco. This was also an occasion to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the FZS’ giant otter project and our unbroken commitment to Manú National Park.</p>
	Infrastructure and Material Support of the Park Authorities			<p>All activities are conducted in close cooperation with the conservation area authority SERNANP. In April 2015 we signed an agreement with the Peruvian Ministry of Culture, MINCUL. In recent years there has been an increase in sightings and reports of indigenous people who have been living in isolation in the rainforest and who now appear to be seeking out contact. The new agreement will ensure that we have a common strategy to protect indigenous people who live in isolation or are experiencing first contact.</p>
	Environmental Education and Support for Schools in Matsigenka Villages			<p>In May 2015, in the Madre de Dios region we celebrated our giant otter week for the fifth time. Our local FZS team and conservation volunteers organised exhibits, lectures, games, painting competitions, a parade, and puppet shows. We carried out environmental education campaigns in four Matsigenka villages deep inside Manú National Park. The focused workshops were designed to build on and extend the traditional knowledge of the Matsigenka people.</p>
PERU	Protection of the Yaguas Reserve Project area: 8,700 km ² Project start: 2015	<p>The protection of the Yaguas Reserve in north-eastern Peru is a new FZS project in the region.</p> <p>The reserve is home of a number of threatened species, such as the pink river dolphin, Amazonian manatee, and giant otter. In recent years, illegal activities such as logging and panning for gold have increased markedly in the area.</p>		<p>Since September 2015, FZS has been supporting the environmental protection agency, SERNANP, to establish a local presence.</p>



Dawn breaking over Pampas del Heath in Bahuaja Sonene National Park, Peru.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2015

The Frankfurt Zoological Society is in a strong financial position and can make a major contribution to international nature conservation through the generous support of private donors and members, and through third-party funding.

ACCOUNTING AND VALUATION METHODS

The annual financial statement as per 31 December 2015 has been prepared according to the provisions of section 264 et seq. of the German Commercial Code (HGB) and meets the accounting requirements set out in section 267 subsection 2 HGB for a medium-sized corporation. The profit and loss account was prepared in accordance with the commercial law nature-of-expense method according to section 275 subsection 2 HGB, taking into account the specific characteristics of the Society's expense and income presentation. The annual financial statement was given an unqualified audit report by W + ST.

In 2015, the FZS projects in Peru, Indonesia, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo were audited by Baker Tilly International, the project in Zimbabwe by Ernst & Young, in Zambia by HLB, and in Ethiopia by Ephrem Melaku & Co. The expenses of individual European and South American/Southeast Asian projects and small projects were audited internally in Frankfurt by the Finance department and spot checks were made by the auditing company W+ST.

As of the year under review, the same full double-entry accounting method is used for all African FZS projects as in the Frankfurt head office. This allows, for the first time, group consolidation of African projects and the German head office. This results in even greater transparency in the presentation of the financial flows. The internal control system for the proper disbursement of donations, membership fees, allocated fines and third-party funds has been strengthened.

ASSETS

FIXED ASSETS

Intangible Assets

The intangible assets include software licenses for the Frankfurt office. The renewal of the MS Office software in Frankfurt resulted in a higher balance sheet figure of EUR 11,000. Of this, the Stifter-helfen network donated Microsoft software packages to the value of EUR 10,000.

Tangible Assets

Tangible assets amounted to EUR 1.94 million (previous year: EUR 2.89 million). This includes many smaller conservation areas worth EUR 1.36 million (previous year: EUR 1.53 million) which, following the internal realignment of nature conservation areas, are continuing to be reduced and transferred to other conservation organisations. The value of the directly held residential properties has been reduced from EUR 1.27 million to EUR 0.49 million. A number of properties arising from inheritances have been sold with a positive result in the currently very buoyant property market. A property in Berlin which had been valued very favourably was sold, yielding a profit of roughly EUR 0.53 million above its balance sheet value. Smaller properties generate high costs and a great deal of work for FZS. Every effort is therefore made to ensure that these yield the maximum possible profit. Nevertheless, FZS has an ongoing interest in including larger contiguous residential properties in its investment portfolio with a view to further diversifying them.

Financial Assets

The financial assets consist of shareholdings and securities. The amount invested in the financial markets fell from EUR 12.48 million in 2014 to EUR 11.71 million due to maturing bonds and the depreciation of securities. The securities are carried at cost or using the lower-of-cost-or-market principle.

CURRENT ASSETS

Receivables and Other Assets

Receivables from bequests and legacies, however, only amount to EUR 0.28 million (previous year: EUR 0.71 million). Receivables from project partners and third-party donors currently stand at EUR 2.89 million (previous year: EUR 2.55 million). These receivables from project partners are mainly due to their not making full use of the funds made available to them in the financial year, or the FZS making advance payments for project partners.

ASSETS OF FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY (IN T'EUR)	2015	2014
FIXED ASSETS		
Intangible Assets	11.26	0.18
Tangible Assets	1,937.65	2,889.99
Financial Assets	11,705.45	12,479.25
CURRENT ASSETS		
Receivables and Other Assets	3,177.59	3,267.25
Liquid Assets	3,476.69	1,556.37
PREPAYMENTS AND ACCRUED INCOME	43.81	35.32
TOTAL	20,352.45	20,228.36

LIABILITIES OF FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY (IN T'EUR)	2015	2014
EQUITY		
Capital and Free Reserve	16,405.95	16,405.95
UNSPENT FUNDS	739.48	330.65
PROVISIONS	342.74	177.12
LIABILITIES		
Project Funds	2,611.07	3,196.29
Project Liabilities	14.21	18.87
Other Liabilities	239.00	99.49
TOTAL	20,352.45	20,228.36

The advances are regularly reimbursed and finally balanced at the end of the project.

Liquid Assets

The cash and bank balances of FZS in Frankfurt and the five African project regions amounted to EUR 3.48 million, of which EUR 2.3 million are assigned to the Frankfurt office. EUR 0.89 million are held mostly in the project regions in foreign currency.

PREPAYMENTS AND ACCRUED INCOME

Accrued income is costs for the individual financial years such as insurance costs and annual public transport tickets.

LIABILITIES

EQUITY

Capital and Free Reserve

The Society's assets of EUR 11.69 million and the free reserve of EUR 4.72 million are unchanged compared to last year. Thus, the equity capital of EUR 16.41 million has not changed.

UNSPENT FUNDS

A total of EUR 0.74 million (previous year: EUR 0.33 million) in grants and donations were not spent in 2015. Most of these donations arrived at the end of the calendar or financial year, and could not therefore be used for conservation purposes in 2015. These funds will be used for the FZS conservation projects in 2016.

PROVISIONS

The provisions total roughly EUR 0.34 million. Key among these are EUR 0.17 million from Tanzania and the DR Congo which have been set aside with regard to an insurance claim for an FZS aircraft in the DR Congo.

LIABILITIES

Project Funds and Liabilities

Project liabilities to third-party donors were reduced to EUR 2.61 million (previous year: EUR 3.20 million). The amount is mainly due to third-party funding not spent during the financial year which has to be recognised in the balance sheet at the end of the year. Third-party payments are often listed in December, although they are intended for project activities in the following year. Other liabilities for international project funding were reduced. An example of this is the purchase of three aircraft as part of a GIZ project to the amount of EUR 0.80 million.

Other Liabilities

There are other liabilities amounting to EUR 0.24 million. These consist of liabilities in the form of personnel costs, suppliers, taxes, usufruct, etc.

REVENUES

The FZS continues to have a very good, diversified revenue structure. Revenues from third-party funding for the support of conservation projects have grown sharply, but private donations, membership fees, and fines have also been successfully increased

There has been a sharp increase in the revenues from **third-party funding**. These rose from EUR 5.70 million in the previous year to EUR 9.30 million in 2015. **Donations**, at EUR 1.1 million, have recovered after a lower result in the previous year. The income from

allocated fines imposed by the courts and public prosecution services included an extraordinary assignment of EUR 0.1 million, meaning that this item also exceeded previous years' figures.

Income from **legacies and bequests** has consistently been above EUR 1.18 million in recent years (previous year: EUR 1.31 million).

Membership fees have increased slightly to EUR 0.25 million, although the number of members has decreased slightly from 3,516 to 3,496. This means that the average contribution has risen due to voluntary additional payments.

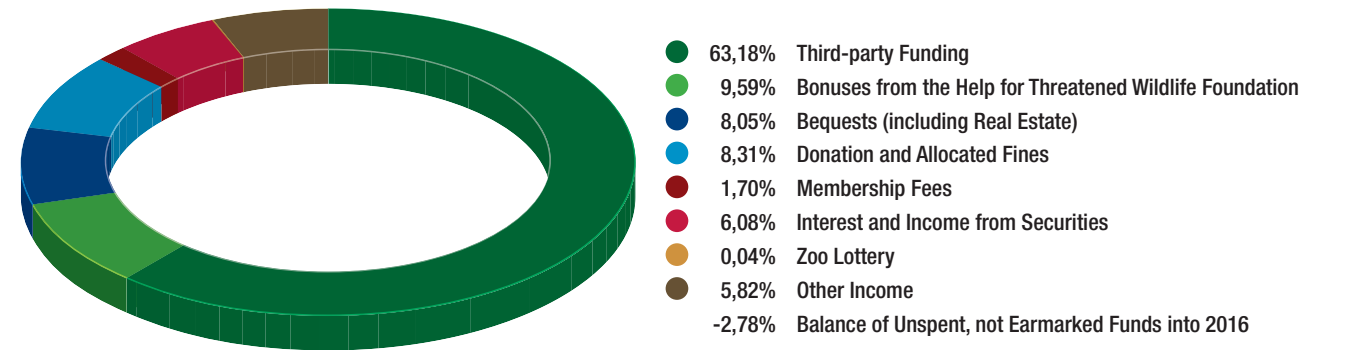
Interest and income from securities have declined somewhat due to the low interest rates, but a result of EUR 0.89 million was achieved through the realisation of capital gains within our asset management.

In 2012, the **Help for Threatened Wildlife Foundation** was able to distribute EUR 1.79 million with a 33 per cent free reserve ratio to the FZS, whereas with the same reserve ratio it was only able to pay out EUR 1.41 million this year. The distribution also includes the regular donation of the Eleonore Beck Foundation of at least EUR 0.5 million.

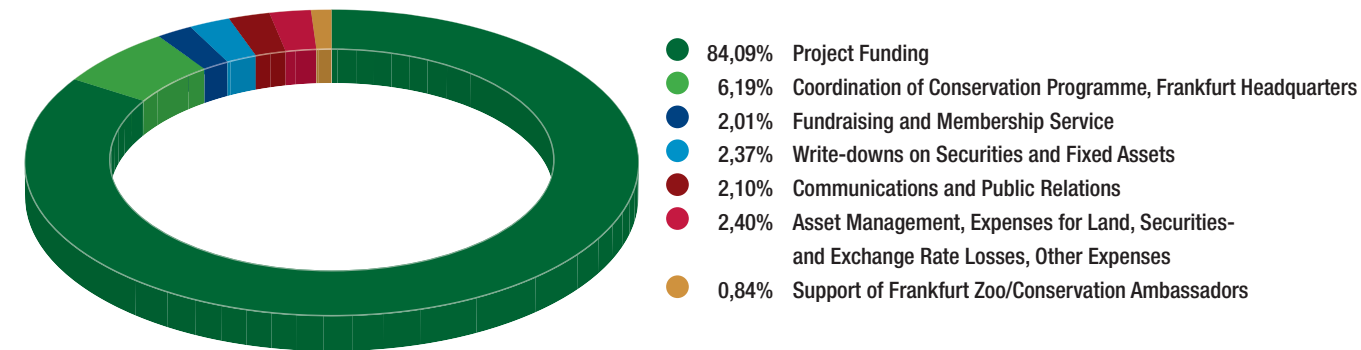
The **other income** totalling EUR 0.86 million consists of mainly the profit from a property in a legacy, rental income from portfolio properties and other revenue.

Since 2014, the year end result has no longer been used to increase the central reserves. The net result has been posted as **unspent funds** which can then be made available for project activities in the following financial year. In 2015, the total of unspent funds amounted to EUR 0.74 million (previous year: EUR 0.33 million), with a net of EUR 0.41 million (previous year: EUR 0.02 million).

REVENUES FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY (IN MILLION EURO)	2015	2014
Third-party Funding	9.30	5.70
Bonuses from the Help for Threatened Wildlife Foundation	1.41	1.57
Bequests (including Real Estate)	1.18	1.31
Donation and Allocated Fines	1.22	0.95
Membership Fees	0.25	0.24
Interest and Income from Securities	0.89	0.61
Zoo Lottery	0.01	0.01
Other Income	0.86	0.32
Balance of Unspent, not Earmarked Funds into 2016	-0.41	-0.02
TOTAL	14.71	10.71

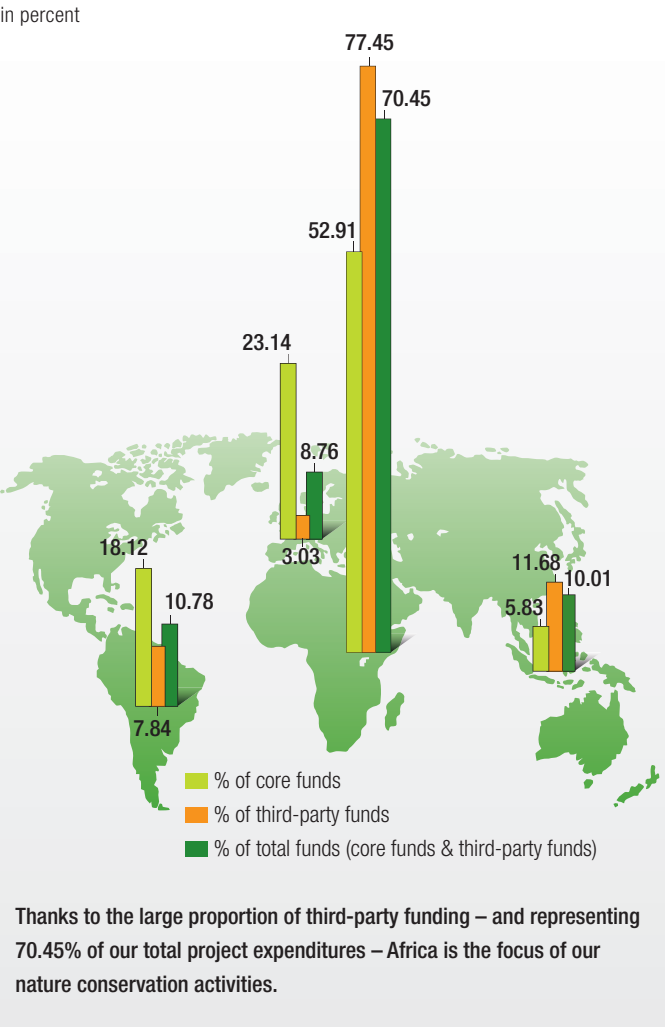


EXPENDITURES FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY (IN MILLION EURO)	2015	2014
Project Funding	12.37	9.25
Coordination of Conservation Programme, Frankfurt Headquarters	0.91	0.71
Fundraising and Membership Service	0.30	0.34
Write-downs on Securities and Fixed Assets	0.35	0.23
Communications and Public Relations	0.31	0.22
Asset Management, Expenses for Land, Securities- and Exchange Rate Losses, Other Expenses	0.35	0.13
Support of Frankfurt Zoo/Conservation Ambassadors	0.12	0.12
TOTAL	14.71	11.01



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

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING BY CONTINENT

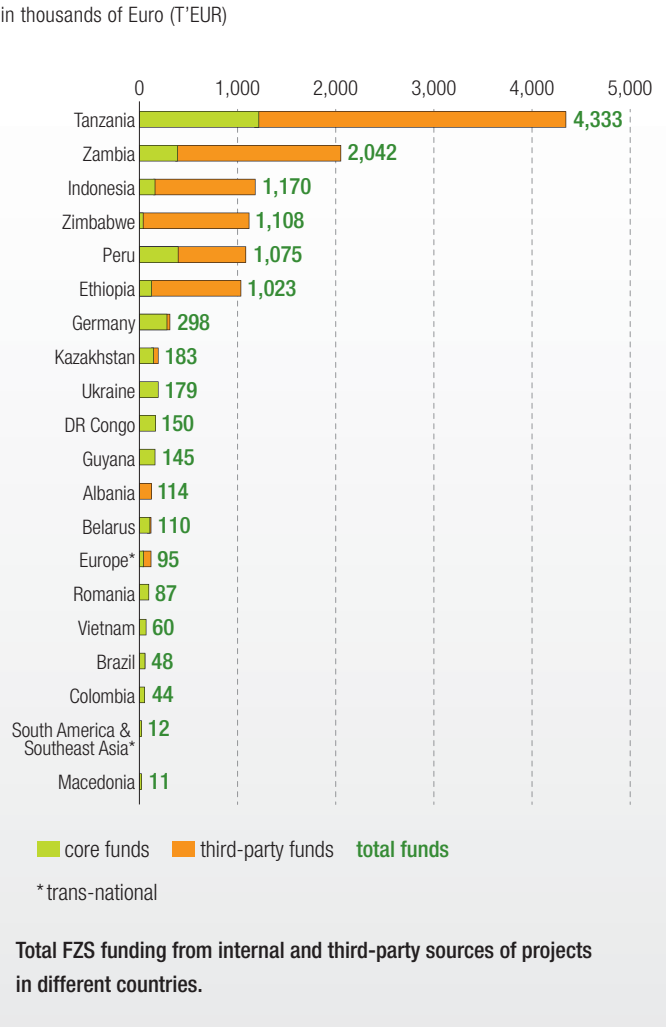


EXPENDITURES

The expenditure for the statutory conservation work, as well as for the management and administration of the FZS amounted to EUR 14.71 million (previous year: EUR 11,01 million). **Project funding** amounted to EUR 12.37 million (previous year: EUR 9.25 million).

Membership services and fundraising expenses including identifiable personnel costs amounted to EUR 0.30 million (previous year: EUR 0.34 million), with EUR 0.31 million for **communication and public relations** (previous year: EUR 0.22 million). Since 2015, postage costs have been assigned to mailing activities (i.e. the specific fundraising budget) and excluded from the administrative costs. Communication work was extended and expanded in the form of an extra position in the field of online communication. **Frankfurt Zoo** and the joint **conservation ambassadors** project were supported, as in the previous year, to the value of EUR 0.12 million.

2015 PROJECT FUNDING BY COUNTRY



EXCERPT FROM THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT GUIDELINES

- No investment may conflict with the conservation mandate.
- Investments in gold, precious metals or other commodities, the extraction of which currently has a strong negative impact on the environment, are excluded.
- The assets may not be invested in companies which generate their principal revenue from arms, alcohol, tobacco, gambling, or genetic engineering. Also excluded are investments in corrupt and illiberal states in which human rights are not respected.
- Investments should only be made in certified bonds and money market instruments. Bonds and money market instruments without investment grade ratings are allowed only with the consent of the Foundation or of the Society.
- The investment currency is the euro. The currency risk is limited to a maximum of 30 per cent of the total investment volume.

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 2015 financial year:

To 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 31.12.15. 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 the management report. Knowledge of the business activities and the economic and legal environment of the society and expectations as to possible misstatements 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, 8 June 2016

W+ST Wirtschaftsprüfung GmbH
Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft

K.-R. Weisgerber,
sworn auditor

F. Waldmann,
certified accountant

HELP FOR THREATENED WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

The Help for Threatened Wildlife Foundation (“Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt”) was founded in 2001 from the assets of FZS. Its untouchable capital stock amounts to EUR 44.20 million. The earnings support the conservation work of FZS. In 2015 over EUR 1.41 million was made available in this way.

CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING AND VALUATION METHOD

As of the 2015 financial year the **investments** are being valued at cost to provide a transparent, uniform and prudent valuation system for the Foundation and the FZS. Value adjustments in the form of unplanned depreciation will be made for expected permanent impairment. Bonds, the acquisition costs of which are higher than the nominal value, will be written down at the time of addition at the lower face value. Financial assets acquired by the Foundation free of charge, will be recognised at the time of addition at their fair value. The change in the accounting method also changes the presentation of the balance sheet total.

ASSETS

FIXED ASSETS

Financial Assets

The financial assets consist of securities and property investments. The majority of the financial assets are invested in the Foundation’s own special fund which is tailored to the organisation’s specific needs and characteristics and is in line with its own investment guidelines. The significant decrease in the reported assets is attributable to the change in the valuation method of the fixed assets. This was changed from market value to acquisition cost. The revaluation reserve amounting to approximately EUR 8.33 million was therefore dissolved in 2015 and now continues in the unrealised reserves.

CURRENT ASSETS

Receivables and Other Assets

Receivables and other assets consist primarily of receivables from bequests and legacies as well as from accrued interest.

Liquid Assets

Cash in hand and balances with banks amount to roughly EUR 1.49 million. This results from matured financial investments which have not been reinvested. The liquidity forms the basis of the Foundation’s distribution to the Frankfurt Zoological Society in the following financial year.

BALANCE ITEMS FOR UNDISTRIBUTED FUND EARNINGS

The distributions to the Frankfurt Zoological Society stem from the matured direct securities investments, meaning that the net income of the special fund remains in the fund. The adjustment item of undistributed fund earnings was created for this. If a further distribution is made from the special fund, this item must be reduced accordingly.

TRUST ASSETS OF THE “STIFTUNG VOGELSCHUTZ IN FEUCHTGEBIETEN”

The capital of the “Stiftung Vogelschutz in Feuchtgebieten” trust amounts to EUR 1.29 million. The reduction in the assets was also due to the change of the accounting and valuation method to the lower-of-cost-or-market principle (see above).

LIABILITIES

FOUNDATION ASSETS

Foundation Capital

The foundation capital of EUR 43.51 million increased by EUR 0.7 million to over EUR 44.20 million in 2015. EUR 0.58 million of this came from an inheritance donated to the Foundation capital by the Dr. Alfredo Maas Fund. The Foundation capital grew through further donations and other inheritances.

Revenue Reserve

The revenue reserve was increased by the maximum possible amount of EUR 0.43 million. This reserve has now risen to EUR

ASSETS OF THE HELP FOR THREATENED WILDLIFE FOUNDATION (IN TEUR)	2015	2014
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible Assets	0.00	0.00
Financial Assets	46,549.76	55,825.91
CURRENT ASSETS		
Receivables and Other Assets	122.44	249.05
Liquid Assets	1,487.10	909.15
BALANCE ITEMS FOR UNDISTURBED FUND EARNINGS	5,901.68	4,769.15
TRUST ASSETS “Stiftung Vogelschutz in Feuchtgebieten”	1,285.09	1,354.82
TOTAL	55,346.08	63,108.08

LIABILITIES OF THE HELP FOR THREATENED WILDLIFE FOUNDATION (IN TEUR)	2015	2014
FOUNDATION ASSETS		
Foundation Capital	44,203.90	43,510.56
Revenue Reserve	8,061.67	7,630.24
Regrouping Reserve	440.57	856.16
Revaluation Reserve	0.00	8,332.97
Retained Earnings	1,344.17	1,411.34
PROVISIONS	10.69	12.00
LIABILITIES	0.00	0.00
TRUST ASSETS “Stiftung Vogelschutz in Feuchtgebieten”	1,285.09	1,354.82
TOTAL	55,346.08	63,108.08

8.1 million and will safeguard the continuation of the purpose of the Foundation for years to come, even in difficult times.

Regrouping Result

The regrouping result was reduced by EUR 0.42 million. This was due to the necessary write-down of securities resulting from changing the valuation method to acquisition costs

Revaluation Reserve

The revaluation reserve item was removed and closed as the result of the switch to the lower-of-cost-or-market principle.

Retained Earnings

With a reserve ratio of 33.3 per cent, this results in EUR 1.34 million in operating cash reserve for conservation to be distributed to the FZS in 2016

PROVISIONS

EUR 11,000 were explicitly reserved for the preparation and auditing of the financial statements.

REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

The **total revenues** 2015 amount to EUR 1.81 million. There are certain reductions in income from investments as a result of the difficult capital market and the extremely low interest rates. The interest and similar income from our own investments are significantly lower due to the streamlining of the direct investments. Matured securities are used for distribution to the Foundation in order to fulfil its aims and are not reinvested. There is also a slight decline in the income from the Special Fund. However, this is mitigated by the higher capital investment and the resulting interest and similar income. The other income of the Foundation has remained constant. The performance of the Special Fund ranged from 2.2 to 3.5 per cent and is a reasonable result given the risk-return parameters in the market environment.

EUR 1.41 million were distributed by the Foundation to the Frankfurt Zoological Society for conservation work in 2015. This was performed after a maximum possible reserve ratio in the Foundation of 33.3 per cent.

The total expenditures for Foundation administration currently amount to approximately EUR 26,000. This corresponds to 1.45 per cent of the total income of the Foundation and 0.47 per cent of the Foundation balance sheet total. Naturally, this is only possible due to FZS actively managing its Foundation.

FZS AT A GLANCE

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

FZS Mission

- **Wilderness & Biodiversity**
are the focus of our work
- **Projects & Programmes**
30 in 18 countries
- **Large Grasslands, Forests, Wetlands and Mountains**
are the focus of our work
- **Approx. 12 Million Euros**
invested in our conservation projects in 2015
- **Staff Members**
300 worldwide, of which 21 are based at headquarters in Frankfurt (Germany)
- **Eastern Africa, South America, Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe**
have been our project regions for decades

OUR TRADITION

The Frankfurt Zoological Society was founded in 1858 by Frankfurt citizens for the purpose of establishing a zoo. After the second World War the Zoological Society was re-established as the zoo's society of friends. Due to Bernhard and Michael Grzimek's animal surveys in the Serengeti in the 1950s, nature conservation became the secondary focus of support for the Society. Initial donations went towards the development of national parks in Africa. From that point onwards, FZS has made it its aim to protect and conserve wildlife and ecosystems focusing on outstanding wilderness areas.

PROFESSOR BERNHARD GRZIMEK (1909 – 1987)

Pioneer and visionary, environmentalist and endangered species conservationist, zoo director, filmmaker and "animal professor". Bernhard Grzimek introduced an entire generation to the world of animals – to which he also devoted his life. As a brilliant fundraiser he used his influence to raise millions for his "Help for Threatened Wildlife" projects.

Grzimek received international recognition for his Oscar-winning documentary "Serengeti Shall Not Die", and in Germany the decades he spent fronting his "Ein Platz für Tiere" show made him a TV legend. In his role as zoo director he rebuilt the destroyed Frankfurt Zoo after the Second World War, attracted public attention to the Serengeti, was a pioneer of conservation in Germany and the initiator of global conservation projects that he set up together with the Frankfurt Zoological Society. The legacy of Bernhard Grzimek lives on to this day in the conservation work of the FZS.

HONORARY BOARD OF THE FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

- Klaus Becker (President)
- Professor Dr. Manfred Niekisch (Vice President)
- Professor Dr. Dr. h. c. Volker Mosbrugger
- Renate von Metzler
- Hans Joachim Suchan
- Gerold Dieke
- Dr. Thomas Kantenwein
- Alexandra Prinzessin von Hannover (until her death on 1 June 2015)

FOUNDATION "HILFE FÜR DIE BEDROHTE TIERWELT"

In 1961 Grzimek founded the "forerunner" of the present day foundation by opening a bank account with the name "Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt" (Help For Threatened Wildlife). Numerous donations and legacies allowed the balance to grow into a considerable amount over the decades. In 2001 FZS used this capital stock to launch one of Europe's largest conservation trust funds. Today, the foundation is endowed with 55 Million Euros. The foundation has an honorary board.

- Gerhard Kittscher (Chairman of the foundation board)
- Klaus Becker
- Professor Dr. Manfred Niekisch
- Dr. Rudolf Kriszeleit
- Johann-Peter Krommer
- Dr. Altfried M. Lütkenhaus
- Dr. Manuela Rottmann
- Dr. Jürgen Heraeus
- Hans Bernhardt (since 1 April 2016)
- Alexandra Prinzessin von Hannover (until her death on 1 June 2015)

FZS’ PARTNER IN THE UNITED STATES

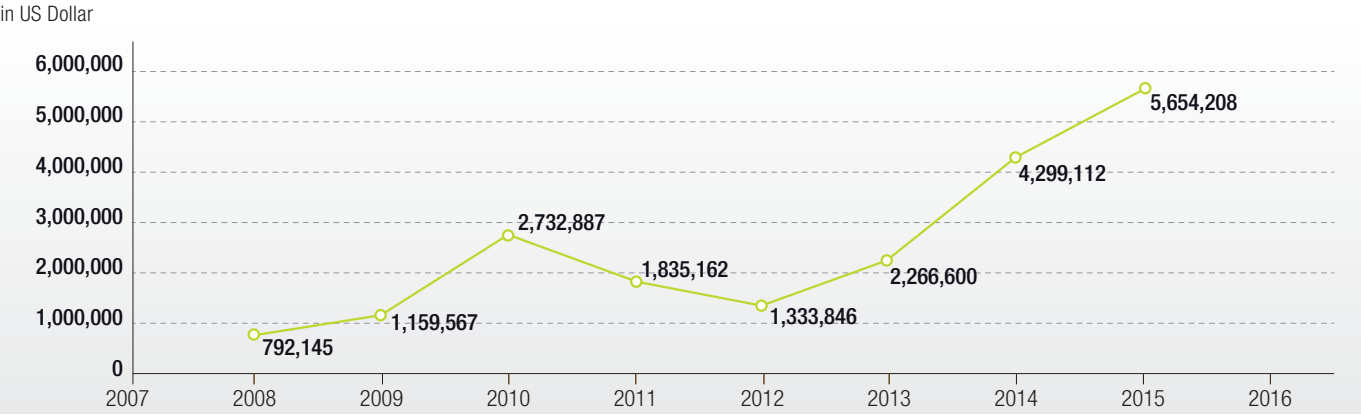


FZS-US continues to play an important role in expanding FZS’ international profile and attracting funding from American supporters. 2015 marked a number of exciting developments. The organisation officially welcomed new board member Jason Scott, income reached an all-time high, and its supporters continue to include some of conservation’s most ardent and committed advocates. In 2015 FZS-US supported projects in Zimbabwe (Gonarezhou), Tanzania (Serengeti and Selous), Zambia (North Luangwa), Ethiopia (Guassa), Peru (Manú and Altos Purús), Brazil (Cantao), and Sumatra (Bukit Tigapuluh).

FZS-US maintains a close link to FZS 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 Executive Director Dr. Peyton West are both members. The US board met twice in 2015, once in Washington DC once in New York City, and the SC met twice in Frankfurt.

FZS-US continues to raise the visibility of FZS in the U.S. by participating in various events. The organisation maintained its partnership with the Clinton Global Initiative’s Elephant Action Network, and Dr. West was honored with an invitation to speak as the representative of the “Stop the Killing” effort at CGI’s Annual Meeting in a session hosted by Chelsea Clinton. Dr. West was also a panel speaker at a screening of “The Last Days of Ivory” sponsored by the Clinton Foundation. FZS-US participated in the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival’s Elephant Conservation Summit and was pleased to host FZS field staff Gerald Bigurube and Dr. Dennis Rentsch, both of whom served as symposium speakers. Fourth Wall Restaurants hosted an evening event in New York City featuring Dr. Rentsch’s work with communities around Serengeti National Park.

THE ORGANISATION’S ANNUAL INCOME SINCE ITS INCEPTION.



PARTNERS AND DONORS 2015

Administration of Bielaviežškaja Pušča National Park (Belarus)
Administration of Prespa National Park (Albania)
African Wildlife Conservation Fund (Zimbabwe)
Allianz Umweltstiftung (Germany)
Anna Merz Trust (UK)
APB – BirdLife Belarus (Belarus)
Asociacion para la Conservacion de la Cuenca Amazonica ACCA (Peru)
Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan ACBK (Kazakhstan)
Ayuda para Vida Silvestre Amenazada AVISA (Peru)
Baileys Roofing (Zambia)
Beit Trust (UK)
Berggorilla und Regenwald Direkthilfe (Germany)
Bukit Tigapuluh National Park (Indonesia)
Bundesamt für Naturschutz BfN (Germany)
Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, Bau und Reaktorsicherheit BMUB (Germany)
Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung BMZ (Germany)
Butler Conservation Fund (USA)
Carl Zeiss Sports Optics GmbH (Germany)
Celtic Freight (Zambia)
Centro de Recursos y Educacion en la Selva CREES (Peru)
Charlotte-und-Werner-Herrmann-Stiftung (Germany)
Chilo Lodge (Zimbabwe)
CI Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (USA)
Combating Poaching and the Illegal Wildlife Trade (Ivory, Rhino Horn) in Africa and Asia Project within the fund for cross-cutting political cooperation (Polifund) (Germany)
Committee for Forestry and Wildlife, Ministry of Agriculture of Republic of Kazakhstan (Kazakhstan)
Conservation Capital (UK)
Conservation International Foundation (USA)
Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals CMS (Germany)
Danang University (Vietnam)
de Brye Charitable Trust (UK)
Department for International Development (UK)
Department of Nature Conservation DoNC (Vietnam)
Deutsche Botschaft, Lusaka (Zambia)
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GIZ-Peru (Peru)
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GIZ-Zambia (Zambia)
Deutscher Naturschutzring DNR (Germany)
Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation PHKA (Indonesia)
Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund (USA)

Elephant Charge (Zambia)
Elephant Crisis Fund (USA)
Europarc Deutschland (Germany)
European Union EU
Farm Africa (UK)
Fauna & Flora International (UK)
Förderverein Nationalpark Senne-Eggegebirge e.V. (Germany)
Fondo de las Américas FONDAM (Peru)
Fondo Nacional para Areas Naturales Protegidas por el Estado PROFONANPE (Peru)
Fourth Wall Restaurants (USA)
Frankfurt Zoological Society – U.S. (USA)
Freundeskreis Nationalpark Hunsrück e. V. (Germany)
Fundacion Charles Darwin FCD (Ecuador)
Fundatia Conservation Carpathia (Romania)
Gonarezhou Bushcamps (Zimbabwe)
GreenViet, Da Nang (Vietnam)
Gregor Louisoder Umweltstiftung (Germany)
Grumeti Reserves and Grumeti Fund (Tanzania)
Gunther Parlow Stiftung (Germany)
Helaba Invest Kapitalanlagegesellschaft mbH (Germany)
Hellabrunn – Der Münchner Tierpark (Germany)
Imperial College London (UK)
Indonesian Nature Conservation Department KSDAE (Indonesia)
INDUFOR (Finland)
Institut für Gemeinwohl GmbH (Germany)
Institut für Tierökologie und Naturbildung (Germany)
Institute Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature ICCN (DR Congo)
International Crane Foundation (USA)
International Elephant Project (Australia)
International Institute Winnipeg (Canada)
International Rhino Foundation (USA)
International Water Management Institute (Sri Lanka)
Jambi Province Conservation Authority (Indonesia)
Jane Goodall Institute (Tanzania)
Jane Goodall Institute (USA)
Johanna Samel Stiftung (Germany)
Karl Kübel Stiftung (Germany)
KfW Development Bank (Germany)
Linnemann-Stiftung (Germany)
Lowveld Rhino Trust (Zimbabwe)
Malilangwe Ltd. (South Africa)
Malilangwe Trust (Zimbabwe)
Manfred-Hermesen-Stiftung (Germany)

PARTNERS AND DONORS
2015

Meatu District (Tanzania)
Ministerio del Ambiente MINAM (Peru)
Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Kazakhstan)
Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration (Albania)
Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (Guyana)
Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (Tanzania)
Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (UAE)
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