

# ANNUAL REPORT

2016

FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

# PROSPECTS FOR 2017



FRANKFURT  
ZOOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY



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Pristine rainforest in Peru.



## Dear Members, Sponsors, Supporters, Partners and Friends,



**E**ven today the Frankfurt Zoological Society conjures up the memory of Bernhard Grzimek, Africa and the Serengeti. But FZS has, of course, become so much more. South America, in particular, has become a real focus. The Andes to Amazon Conservation Programme has turned into our second largest conservation project and supports the Peruvian conservation area authority SERNANP in protecting the countries' enormous and wild rainforests.

Along with the ivory poaching episodes in Africa, illegal gold extraction in Peru became a major concern for us last year, since these activities negatively impact one of our focus conservation regions, the Madre de Dios. The breathtaking beauty and magnitude of this unique rainforest in southeastern Peru are best experienced from the air. But it is also from this perspective that the true scope of the environmental catastrophe emerges. Spurred on by high gold prices, tens of thousands of people pan for gold on a massive scale the sediments of rainforest rivers. In 2016, gold-seekers even entered a conservation area for the first time at the Tambopata Reserve. Panning for gold in the rivers has become a major business, and countering these illegal activities has become one of SERNANP's greatest challenges. We are doing our best to support SERNANP.

Gold is going to remain a part of our culture, there is no denying that. But be a conscientious consumer. Ask questions about the origins of the gold you buy, and help us create awareness that gold can have a dark side, too.

Our mission is to conserve wild and natural areas – from Peru to Sumatra, from Kazakhstan to Zimbabwe. I am very pleased to present you with our Annual Report for 2016, which offers insight into our work and some of the success stories from the past year. It is encouraging that so many of our projects have made an impact, both in conserving natural areas and in creating new areas where nature is protected, such as in the Carpathian Mountains.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Klaus Becker'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

*Klaus Becker*

President of the Frankfurt Zoological Society

## OUTLOOK

# GLOBAL QUESTIONS CAN ONLY BE ANSWERED WITH GLOBAL ANSWERS

Deep in the incredible, expansive rainforests of southeastern Peru, there still exist so-called “uncontacted” people or people in “initial contact.” These indigenous people live in the most remote regions of the forest without contact with the outside world. These are people who are unfamiliar with metals and other products of modern society. They are an integral part of an inordinately complex ecosystem – like all other living things in the rainforest. These various, small groups speak an astoundingly diverse array of languages and clearly avoid contact with each other. Their population density is among the lowest on the planet.

Leaving the rainforest toward the west, you encounter small, isolated farming villages in the Andes Highlands. Eventually, larger communities appear and then modest cities like Cusco. Finally, arriving at the coast, there is the sprawling mega-city of Lima inhabited by 8.5 million people. The Peruvian capital is also the centre of the Andean Community (CAN), an economic and political alliance among Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia and another five affiliated nations. In 2014, Lima hosted the United Nations Climate Change Conference and in 2016, the UNESCO’s Biosphere Reserve World Congress took place there.

In a way, crossing Peru from east to west is also a journey that passes through a few thousand years of forms of human organisation. And one thing becomes very clear along the way – the more people that come together in one place, the more important it is that we are well-organised, united and pursuing a common goal.

## The Mountains are Getting Steeper

In 2050, the world’s population will have increased by three billion; a third of this growth will have taken place in Africa alone. Global temperatures will have risen at least one degree, extreme weather events and natural catastrophes will have become even more frequent. In the coming decades, areas of natural habitat will become rarer, and more and more animal and plant species will disappear. The risk of pandemics will increase. Ecosystems

will no longer be able to provide the services upon which we depend – things like clean water, air purification, carbon storage and sufficient food and medicines. Hardship, extreme inequality, crises and wars are already causing massive migration today. The movement of people could multiply in the future. We are facing big – very big – challenges.

It’s clear – global problems cannot be solved by individual nations or even smaller entities. We need the world community and new, more advanced forms of organisation.

## Better Together Than Alone

In international conservation, multinational agreements are regarded as important and effective instruments for protecting natural resources and conserving them for future generations. With Natura 2000, the EU created, among its 28 member states, the world’s largest coordinated network and regulatory framework for conservation areas. The United Nations World Heritage Convention has been signed by 165 states, and today there exist 1,000 world heritage sites, of which over 200 are natural regions, like the Serengeti, Manu National Park and the Galapagos Islands. The multilateral Washington CITES agreement regulates international trade in threatened animal and plant species and has succeeded in intervening at the last moment to save a number of species from extinction. Finally, the Paris Climate Accord, which has been signed by 195 countries, is a key precondition for limiting global temperature increases.

None of these agreements are perfect. Many commitments are too weak; many compromises have been made. But they have all come to exist out of the desire to come together to protect important commons, to improve how we do things, and to leave future generations with a planet that is still relatively intact.

Never before in the past 50 years in the western world have we been confronted with such massive, starkly contrasting move-



Dr. Christof Schenck  
Executive Director of Frankfurt Zoological Society

ments. Common values, agreements and forms of organisation are dissolving. A paradigmatic change appears to be in the works: Isolation instead of integration, confrontation instead of cooperation, bunker mentality instead of openness. Seeing enemies where there could be friendships. This kind of thinking will make it impossible to solve our greatest existential problems, like averting climate change and the loss of biodiversity. Global questions can only be answered with global answers.

### Global Impact and Local Action

Continent-spanning developments are increasingly affecting our nature conservation work on the ground – both in a positive and negative sense. On the one hand, trade restrictions on minerals from conflict zones can help reduce the pressure on gorilla conservation areas in eastern DRC, and climate protection funding can bolster our project activities on Sumatra and in Peru. On the other hand, global developments are at the root of our greatest challenges. Increasing wealth in Asia, for example, has unleashed a new demand for luxury items such as ivory and rhino horn, and the consequences have been devastating for the populations of both species. In our project regions in Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, we have been forced to invest millions in securing the areas. And there is no end in sight. A veritable tsunami of poaching has brought misery to Africa. Tens of thousands of ani-

**“Conservation is one of the utmost importances today. We, at FZS, are happy to contribute to this task significantly.”**

mals are poached annually, the millions that flowed into illegal trade strengthened criminal syndicates, weakened governments, created insecurity, changed ecosystems and cost human lives.

If poaching is the scourge of Africa, in South America it's gold fever. So-called alluvial gold mining, the extraction with the help of mercury and mechanical means of gold particles from river sediments and the beds of flood plains, is spreading like an epidemic. The continuing, decades-long increase in the price of gold coupled with the poor performance of other investments and the enormous accumulation of capital in a few hands – these are the main drivers. Hundreds of thousands of hectares of primary rain-forest have been cleared, mega-diverse treasures of nature have been turned into poisoned wasteland. This boom has spurred

other misfortune and destruction. It has promoted human trafficking and caused brain damage in children from the mercury contained in their mothers' milk and the food chain.

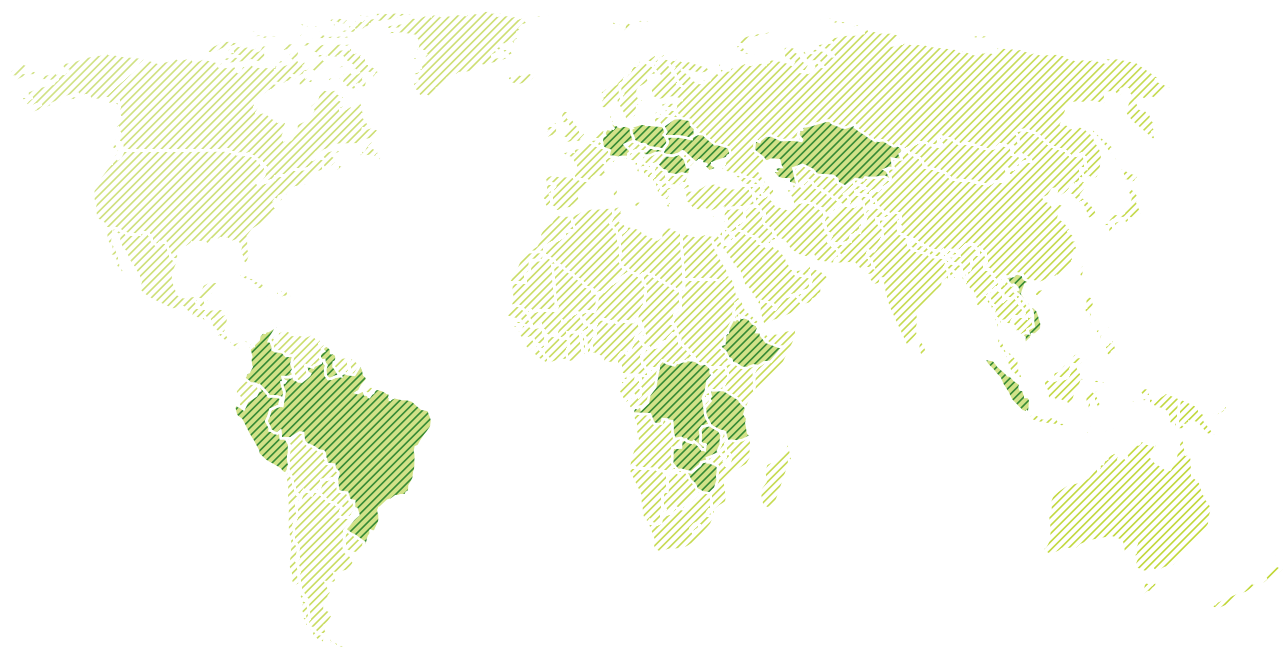
Due to gold mining in northern Peru, we have been compelled to work with conservation authorities to place a ranger post under military protection. This would have been unthinkable a few years ago.

## Our Way Forward

As a consequence of these fast global and local changes, in 2016 we decided to re-evaluate the ten-year plan that we developed in 2011. In November, FZS team members from four continents came together to take stock. The basic tenets of our plan remain unchanged. We will continue to focus on highly biodiverse, large wilderness areas and commit to long-term support. Such areas have become our hallmark, drawing on the experience of over 60 years of international nature conservation work.

Our conservation efforts will remain flexible and adopt the models that best suit the circumstances. This might mean tasking an FZS team to support conservation area authorities. But it could also mean working in the context of a co-management model. Typically, we bring our own infrastructure – vehicles, light aircraft and boats – and run a local administrative office to provide coordination. In Europe, where government structures and civil society are, relatively speaking, more developed than in tropical countries and where there are good local conservation organisations, we will stick to our practice of forming partnerships and collaborating on projects. We foresee continued modest growth for FZS and will concentrate on key administrative portfolios and fundraising.

The world has become more complex, but FZS is up to the challenge. We are committed to devoting all of our energies to the conservation of exceptional wilderness areas and their fascinating inhabitants. It is nice to know that we have so many friends and supporters that we can count on.



■ **13 Million Euros**  
*invested in our conservation projects in 2016*

■ **29 Projects & Programmes**  
*in 18 Countries*

■ **323 Staff Members**  
*worldwide, of which 23 are based at headquarters in Frankfurt (Germany)*

■ **Large Grasslands, Forests, Wetlands and Mountains**  
*are the focus of our work*



# AWARDS, EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS 2016

## FEBRUARY

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### Support for Aerial Monitoring of the Serengeti



On February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Egon Kochanke, German Ambassador to Tanzania, presented an Aviat Husky A-1C light aircraft to Prof. Jumanne Maghembe, Tanzanian Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism. The Husky will be operated by FZS and deployed in the airspace above the Serengeti. The plane is small, light and can be flown at low elevation and at low speeds, making it ideal for monitoring large wilderness areas for poaching activities, conducting population surveys and systematically tracking changes in habitat.

## MARCH

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### Husky Fleet Continues to Expand



The Selous Game Reserve will be the next area in which an Aviat Husky A-1C utility aircraft is deployed to counter poaching. Dr. Gerd Müller, Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development, presented the plane to his Tanzanian counterpart, Prof. Jumanne Maghembe, Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism. The Husky will be operated by FZS and the Tanzanian Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) to monitor Selous and help prevent poaching.

## MARCH

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### Three Decades Protecting North Luangwa



On March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016, in Lusaka, FZS and Zambia's Department of National Parks & Wildlife (DNPW) celebrated a thirty-year partnership in protecting the North Luangwa ecosystem. The festivities were hosted by the German Embassy in Zambia and offered our project teams the opportunity to provide the many guests from the world of politics and conservation insight into their work. The North Luangwa Conservation Programme began in 1986 and today supports the management of an area spanning 22,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

Paul Zyambo the Director of DNPW, acknowledged the North Luangwa Conservation Programme in his speech: "Thirty years ago, there were very few animals left in the park because of poaching. But after the programme started we soon saw improvements and now we have big numbers of elephants and big numbers of buffaloes." Bernd Finke, German Ambassador in Zambia, congratulated DNPW and FZS on their achievements and said he was "proud to be able to support conservation efforts."

**MARCH**

**“Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt”  
Foundation celebrates 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary**



Fifteen years ago, on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2001, the “Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt”-Foundation was founded. It was the former FZS President, Dr. Richard Faust, who largely promoted the foundation. FZS put around 33 million Euro into the foundation’s capital 15 years ago as core funding. In 1961 Grzimek founded the “forerunner” of the present day foundation by opening a bank account with the name “Help For Threatened Wildlife.” Numerous donations and legacies allowed the balance in the special account to grow into a considerable amount over the decades. Today, the foundation’s assets amount to roughly 45 million Euro. The revenues are used exclusively to support the conservation work of FZS.

**MAY**

**German Development Minister Visits  
FZS in Frankfurt**



Having made acquaintances with one another in March on a trip to the Selous Game Reserve, Dr. Gerd Müller, Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development, and FZS Executive Director, Dr. Christof Schenck, met again on May 3<sup>rd</sup> in Frankfurt. Together, Müller (centre), Schenck (left) and FZS Vice President Prof. Manfred Niekisch (right), discussed the impact of rhino and elephant poaching on the development of African states and how governments and conservation organisations can address this challenge.

**MAY**

**New Board Member for the Brandenburg  
Wilderness Foundation**



Dr. Christof Schenck became Head of the Board of Brandenburg Wilderness Foundation (Stiftung Naturlandschaften Brandenburg, SNLB) on May 20<sup>th</sup>. He replaces Dr. Hans-Joachim Mader, who had headed the board since its inception in 2000. Dr. Mader, 71, had announced his desire to step down and was recognised for his great contributions to the foundation. Dr. Schenck is one of the founders of the SNLB. FZS has worked with the foundation from the beginning to realise the vision of converting former military training grounds to wilderness areas.

**JUNE**

**New Hope for Saiga Antelopes**



On June 14<sup>th</sup>, the government of Kazakhstan announced the results of a country-wide Saiga census that was conducted via two helicopters in late April by our partner organisation ACBK (Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan). In the wake of the catastrophic mass die-off in 2015, which affected 200,000 saigas, the results of the count are grounds for cautious optimism. The count of the Betpak Dala population in central Kazakhstan was 36,200 adult antelopes, and there was also good news about the other two populations in the country. In 2016, the Ural group was the largest in all of Kazakhstan. The size of the Ustyurt population is alarmingly small at fewer than 2,000 animals, but at least this group is not showing further decline.



## JUNE

### Podium Discussion on Illegal Trade in Wild Animals



Following the invitation of John Emerson, U.S. Ambassador to Germany, on June 14<sup>th</sup>, leaders from international conservation organisations, politicians and diplomats met in Berlin to honor American-German cooperation to combat wildlife crime. The experts from the World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF), Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) shared their organisations' experiences and voiced challenges and concerns. FZS Executive Director, Dr. Christof Schenck, was on hand as a conservation expert and contributed to the discussion of possible solutions to the poaching crisis in Africa

## AUGUST

### Freedom for Nyaru



Born at the Perth Zoo, Australia, Nyaru is now the third zoo-born orangutan to be released in the jungle of Bukit Tigapuluh on Sumatra. Since his release in August, Nyaru has been monitored 12 hours per day by the so-called "post-release monitoring team." Care is being taken to ensure that he is adapting well to his new home. Nyaru is the 165<sup>th</sup> orangutan to be released as a part of FZS's Sumatra programme.

## AUGUST

### Results of "Great Elephant Census" Released



The findings of the Africa-wide "Great Elephant Census" were released on August 31<sup>st</sup>. The census proves that between 2007 and 2014, the African Elephant population declined by 30 percent. Census-takers counted a total of 352,271 elephants in the 18 countries covered. This was the first multinational elephant census carried out according to scientific protocols within a period of just two years. FZS conducted the aerial surveys in Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

## SEPTEMBER

### New Vehicles for the Serengeti and Selous



On September 5<sup>th</sup>, Gerald Bigurube, Programme Head in Tanzania, presented Tanzania Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Prof. Jumanne Maghembe, with 21 new all-terrain vehicles. FZS is providing the vehicles to the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) and Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA). The vehicles will be deployed in Selous and the Serengeti for ecosystem monitoring and anti-poaching efforts.

**SEPTEMBER**

**Launch of the Gonarezhou Conservation Trust**



On September 16<sup>th</sup>, Oppah Muchinguri, the Zimbabwean Minister of the Environment, Water, and Climate, spoke during the launch of the founding of the Gonarezhou Conservation Trust. In the future, the foundation will take over the management of Gonarezhou National Park. The goal is to ensure long-term financial security of the park and to promote the involvement of the people living in the area in conserving Zimbabwe's natural heritage. Development opportunities will also be created, including tourism, jobs and educational programmes. FZS has been working in Gonarezhou since 2007.

**OCTOBER**

**New Agreement with Colombia**



On October 6<sup>th</sup>, representatives of FZS and the Colombian national park authority, Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia, signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The Memorandum commits both to the long-term conservation of Serrania de Chiribiquete National Park in southern Colombia. The park covers 28,000 km<sup>2</sup> and although it is one of the most biodiverse places in the world, it is threatened by increasing deforestation.

**OCTOBER**

**HelferHerzen Prize for Conservation Ambassadors**



A cooperation between FZS and the Frankfurt Zoo, the Conservation Ambassador Programme, was recognised on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016, with the "dm HelferHerzen Prize" for its tireless work at the zoo. Project Leader Michael Kauer accepted the distinction on behalf of all of the volunteer conservation ambassadors. The 1,000 Euro prize was presented by the mayor of Frankfurt, Peter Feldmann.

**OCTOBER**

**Bruno H. Schubert Prize to Ed Sayer and Claire Lewis**



Since 2007, Ed Sayer and Claire Lewis have placed their lives in the service of North Luangwa National Park in Zambia. In October 2016, they were distinguished with the Bruno H. Schubert Prize (category II, practical conservation). The couple live with their three children in the middle of the wilderness of North Luangwa. As managers of the North Luangwa Conservation Programme, they work in close cooperation with the national park and park rangers to provide the park and the ecosystem with comprehensive protection.



## NOVEMBER

### Successful relocation of a Sumatran Elephant



In November 2016, Dr. Alexander Moßbrucker, Project Leader of FZS' Human Elephant Conflict Mitigation Project, ventured an experiment; Together with his team he managed to relocate a young elephant bull, Haris, from a densely populated area in the province of Riau to the nature concession of Hutan Harapan. Haris was considered a "problem elephant" and had already killed a person in his search of a territory. His relocation was the first relocation of a wild Sumatran elephant. As of now, the relocation was a success. Haris has settled in well in Hutan Harapan and is getting along with the resident female elephants.

## NOVEMBER

### Re-flooding of Dziki Nikar in Belarus



Following year-long preparations, in late November the re-wetting of 11 square kilometer of fen mire in Belovezhskaya Puszcza National Park in the Belarussian part of the transboundary Bialowieza forest complex began. This represents a first step in restoring the natural hydrology in Bialowieza, one of the last, large, natural forests in Europe. The forest area, comprising over 2,000 square kilometer, is located in nearly equal parts in Poland and Belarus. A large part of Bialowieza has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

## NOVEMBER

### Distinction for Sylvester Kampamba



Head of the North Luangwa Education Programme, Sylvester Kampamba, has been distinguished with the prestigious "Disney Conservation Hero Award." The award recognises his success with the Lolesha Luangwa initiative, which was created to promote enthusiasm among school children in the region for the protection of the ecosystem and black rhinos. All of the rhinos in the country had been killed by poachers. FZS reestablished a rhino population in North Luangwa National Park.

## DECEMBER

### It's a Go for the North Luangwa Ecosystem Project



The inauguration of a new phase of the North Luangwa Conservation Programme in Zambia took place on December 15<sup>th</sup>. This project component will be realised as a joint effort of FZS and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The focus of this large-scale resource protection project is cooperation with village communities residing in the North Luangwa ecosystem. The German Ambassador in Zambia, Achim Burkart, his U.S. counterpart, Eric Schultz, and Zambian Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism and Art, Stephen Mwansa, were present for the kick-off event.





AFRICA

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# LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE IMPACT



Africa is where Frankfurt Zoological Society first engaged in conservation, and to this day, the Africa Programme is our largest, both in the number of projects and the volume of funding. The programme seeks to further develop and consolidate our support to key conservation areas in order to ensure sustained impact in the context of increasing threats.

■ **10 Projects**  
*and programmes on the continent*

■ **8.92 Million Euros**  
*Our conservation support in 2016:  
EUR 1.86 million from our own resources and  
EUR 7.06 million from third-party funding*

■ **5 Project Countries**  
<sup>1</sup> DR Congo  
<sup>2</sup> Ethiopia  
<sup>3</sup> Tanzania  
<sup>4</sup> Zambia  
<sup>5</sup> Zimbabwe



■ **Programme Office**  
*Africa Regional Office, Arusha, Tanzania*

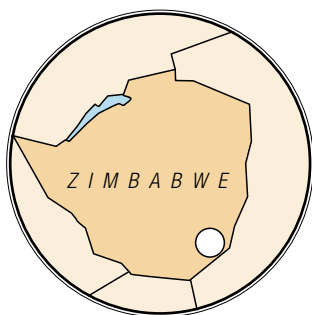


Red sandstone cliffs are typical for Gonarezhou.

## FROM THE FIELD

### GONAREZHOU, ZIMBABWE

# An innovative conservation partnership: The Gonarezhou Conservation Trust



Temperatures were already nearing 30 degrees Celsius and some 250 spectators from the local communities had gathered on seating beneath a large sunroof. The guest of honour arrived at 10 o'clock in the morning at the Chipinda Pools airstrip in Gonarezhou National Park. Taking the podium, Oppah Muchinguri, the Zimbabwean Minister of Environment, Water and Climate, officially launched the Gonarezhou Conservation Trust.

Since September 2016, and after almost three years of consultations, the partnership between Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) and the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks) is now proceeding on exciting new terms, creating an innovative approach to managing Gonarezhou National Park.

## Situation on the Ground

FZS has been providing support to ZimParks in the management of the 5,000 square kilometres National Park in the south-east of Zimbabwe since 2007. The Gonarezhou Conservation Project was initiated at a critical time, when funding and capacity constraints were threatening to reverse conservation gains made over decades of sound wildlife and habitat management.

To safeguard the Park, FZS provided technical and financial support, while the Zimbabwean authorities provided the manpower. The joint conservation project largely achieved its objectives, but





**Gonarezhou is home to a large elephant population. An aerial survey confirmed the increase in elephant population to approximately 11,000 animals.**

over time it became apparent that ZimParks was not able to continuously provide the quantity and quality of manpower needed to protect Gonarezhou against the increasing threats of poaching and encroachment, or to embark on ambitious projects like the reintroduction of black rhinos. Deviating from its normal operating model, FZS started training and employing field staff itself.

Overall, FZS has provided Gonarezhou with around 10 million US Dollars. This was made possible through a trusting long-term donor who believed in our approach. However, the arrangement locked FZS into a perpetual cycle of financial support to the park and provided no long-term basis for its protection. Therefore, the Gonarezhou Conservation Trust was formed with the main goal to achieve financial sustainability whilst providing overall management. Other objectives are to create benefits and opportunities for the local communities, for instance through tourism development, job creation and educational programmes.

## Steps taken in 2016

The launch of the Trust begins a 20-year commitment during which Gonarezhou National Park will be administered by a Board of Trustees with equal representation from FZS and ZimParks. A Management Committee will implement the Park plan and report directly to the Board. All income generated by the Park is retained and the Trust takes responsibility for all management costs, including staff salaries.

In parallel to the formation of the Trust, the Gonarezhou Conservation Project was active throughout the year. FZS continued its support of 66 cadet rangers, selected and trained over the last three years, and 35 new candidates, all originating from communities directly adjacent to Gonarezhou. Training was conducted by in-service Gonarezhou rangers.

Support to law enforcement also involved the supply of fuel, rations, patrol and camping equipment, and three new Land Cruisers were acquired for park operations. The Gonarezhou Canine Unit was reinforced with two new sniffer dogs trained to detect ivory, bushmeat, guns and ammunition. The dogs have so far primarily been deployed along the western Park boundary and have improved the detection and capture of poachers coming into the Park for fishing and snaring.

The digital radio network was significantly expanded in 2016, linking the previously existing southern and northern locations and enabling full real-time coverage of all patrols and vehicles deployed in the area. Routine maintenance of the 1,200 kilometres' road network throughout the Park was continued and running the vehicle workshop was an essential contribution to Park management.

FZS carried out aerial surveillance to detect illegal activities and support ranger forces on the ground. The aircraft was also used to measure the impact of project activities on wildlife and vegetation. In 2016, the fourth comprehensive aerial survey for elephants and other large herbivores, wild and domestic, was completed. The survey confirmed that elephant numbers have stabilised at a high level of about 11,000 animals.

## Looking Ahead

Future development efforts will focus on the four pillars of the Gonarezhou Conservation Trust: conservation, community engagement, tourism development and ensuring the security in the area as part of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area. The Trust's executive mandate and well-defined management powers, secured for an ecologically meaningful time frame, makes it a compelling vehicle to improve conservation impact and secure donor support. In parallel, the Trust will build the Park's income-generating capacity through a measured and carefully planned tourism plan. Together these measures will contribute to the overarching goal of retaining the Park's exceptional wilderness.



**In 2016, Gonarezhou's tracker dog unit was expanded further and both dogs and handlers received training.**

## FROM THE FIELD

# GUASSA COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AREA, ETHIOPIA

## Conservation on the roof of Africa



The smoke stings the eyes and makes them water, but it keeps the bees away, at least most of them. Some are buzzing angrily around the woman's head, but she is clad for the purpose and protected while she collects this month's harvest of honey from her hives on the edge of the Guassa Community Conservation Area in the northern Ethiopian highlands. The bee hives have been distributed by Frankfurt Zoological Society's Afroalpine Ecosystem Conservation Project and honey has become a source of income for marginalized members of local communities, who depend on natural resources.

### Situation on the Ground

Frankfurt Zoological Society has been active in the conservation of Afro-alpine areas in the northern highlands of Ethiopia since 2005. The overall goal is to improve the conservation status of these ecosystems through the active participation of adjacent communities. The Ethiopian highlands are home to many species found only in these isolated mountain islands, including populations of the endangered Ethiopian wolf and the gelada baboon, as well as unusual and rare species. The high plateaus and their slopes are also an important water catchment area for the Nile and other rivers draining into the Ethiopian lowlands.

The Guassa Community Conservation Area, around 100 square kilometres in extent, is a prime example of community-based conservation, with a centuries-old tradition of indigenous natural resource management. Whilst this system fell into disuse in the 1970s, FZS has worked since 2005 to modernise and reinstate community-led management.

A primary challenge is rapid human population growth, which is increasing pressures on the ecosystem through land demands for farming, livestock grazing and settlements. Illegal and unsustainable utilization of natural resources - such as cutting Guassa grass, collecting firewood and grazing - degrades habitat. It also compromises water retention and contributes to floods, sedimentation and water shortages for downstream users. The Afroalpine Ecosystem Conservation Project works to address the drivers of ecosystem degradation.

### Steps taken in 2016

Our approach relies on strengthening the community-led institutions that manage the area and on diversifying the livelihoods of those families that have few options other than to illegally use the protected resources.

Over the course of the year, FZS supported the community-based patrolling and monitoring system, and built the capacity of the Community Conservation Council and the local government support office. To augment law enforcement efforts, we supported the establishment of a conflict resolution committee, which has improved collaboration between government and communities. The information from the ecological monitoring is being provided to the committee on a regular basis to enable adaptive management.



Beekeeping has become an important means of income for the rural population.

Illegal destructive activities in Guassa have successfully been reduced by assisting marginalized groups to adopt conservation-compatible development activities. Currently, the area is opened during droughts for livestock grazing and is made available once every three years for grass cutting. The community benefits substantially from these activities and thus are motivated to protect the area, and the Guassa grass abundance is remaining stable.





FZS provided villages in Guassa with apple saplings. Now, the grown trees bear fruit and help generate additional income.

Honey production is yielding promising results with both livelihood and conservation outcomes. Individuals who received training and access to equipment and bee starter colonies produced around 22 kilogrammes of honey in 2015, and just over 40 kilogrammes in 2016. As a result, after just two years, these 59 households have earned about 170 Euro in extra income per year – a significant increase in a country where every third household exists on an income of less than 2 Euro per day. The Guassa people have been using the money for school fees, investing in small livestock and also in further bee colonies.

FZS has also worked to reduce firewood collection by helping the locals to establish tree nurseries and use fuel-efficient stoves. We have also introduced highland apple and pear trees and livestock fodder seeds.

Livelihood interventions have shown positive results, but we are also taking a long-term view. FZS has started work to raise the awareness of communities on the links between population, health and the environment and thus to help people understand that it is only possible to live within the limits of the ecosystem. This, combined with Government policy to encourage family planning, could stimulate increased demand for reproductive health services.

Finally, the most endangered species of Guassa, the Ethiopian wolf, is also doing well. According to last year's count there are an estimated 35 to 42 individuals.

As flagship species of the Afro-alpine ecosystems, stable populations of the wolves and the geladas are important for ecotourism initiatives. FZS has supported basic tourism development like building huts, producing a guidebook and developing a website, as well as facilitating the establishment of a guides, artisans and tourism board association. FZS has also provided training in financial procedures and tourist management. However, the recent unrest in Ethiopia was a major challenge for international tourism to the area.

## Looking Ahead

The Guassa communities have realised that protecting the area has substantial benefits, and they are much more supportive of conservation. The Guassa Community Conservation Council has shown itself to be capable of managing and administrating the conservation area with little external support. This is a major achievement and suggests that a key element of sustainability is now in place. FZS anticipates that the area will continue to flourish under the local management and that the communities continue to benefit. Future projects could help to scale up the successful pilot livelihood development and reproductive health initiatives.

## FROM THE FIELD

### MAHALE CONSERVATION PROJECT, TANZANIA

# Saving up to safeguard an African biodiversity hotspot



The evening is starting to draw in and the lake becomes calmer with only a few gentle waves lapping against the sandy shore. Women and children gather to wash pots and pans. Some young girls carefully fill buckets to head-carry home, providing the only water supply for their households. They take a narrow path, overgrown with grasses and wild herbs up towards the village. The path leads through the dark shady canopy of oil palm trees and passes several small ramshackle mud huts. Further on, the huts give way to sturdier houses built with mud bricks on a concrete base.

Around the back of one house that is topped by a metal sheet roofing, 30 people, mostly women, are settling down in the private grass-fenced yard for the weekly meeting of their Community Conservation Bank (COCOBA) group. The register is taken, careful not to use names but numbers of the group members. The three key keepers step forward and unlock the green metal strongbox. The formal business of weekly banking begins in Mahale at the western tip of Tanzania.

## Situation on the Ground

The Greater Mahale Ecosystem, covering an area of close to 20,000 square kilometres, is part of the globally recognised Eastern Afro-montane Biodiversity Hotspot. The Mahale Mountains National Park at its core is a mosaic of overlapping montane forest and mountain grasslands in higher altitudes, bamboo and rain-forest and woodland on the slopes. The forest is home to one of the world's largest populations of chimpanzees. Some tourism infrastructure is in place and the number of visitors is slowly growing.

The region is still characterised by relatively low human population and little infrastructure, although this is changing quickly as the local population expands and road infrastructure is developed. Frankfurt Zoological Society has been active in Mahale since the early 1990s. The Mahale Conservation Project aims to preserve the ecosystem's biodiversity in close cooperation with Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) and the local communities.

## Steps taken in 2016

Conservation in the west of Tanzania is trying to find the balance of realising immense conservation opportunities in coordination with meeting the development needs urgently required to reduce poverty. The Mahale Ecosystem Project was the first to introduce the concept of COCOBAs to Tanzania. Establishing a network of community trainers and groups and providing the know-how to run a savings and banking loans scheme enhance grass-root economic development and link it to community engagement in conservation.

To support the expanding COCOBA network the project recruited and instructed 27 new trainers from villages in the area. Three new COCOBA groups were established bringing the number of groups to 60. We have put the COCOBA groups in contact with a mobile telephone company to explore options for providing electronic money transfer services to ease transactions. The COCOBA concept has meanwhile been adopted as a successful model by other Frankfurt Zoological Society projects in Africa and by our partner Tanzania National Parks Authority. In Mahale, the rain-





**Mahale's chimpanzee population is one of the biggest in the world.**

Beyond our support to communities, FZS is supporting efforts to expand the protected area network in the ecosystem. In August 2016, the Mpanda District Council approved the boundaries of the new 3,650 square kilometre Tongwe West Local Authority Forest Reserve. Protecting this area will secure long-term revenues from sustainable harvesting as well as a high biodiversity forest and important water catchments. Tongwe West will also protect a significant area of habitat of a large proportion of Tanzania's chimpanzee population.

The project working closely with partners has formed a team with the Katavi regional authority, the Tanganyika district and the Katavi National Park and resurveyed the Mahale Katavi corridor. The connectivity between the Katavi National Park and the Mahale Mountains National Park allows animals to move across the wider ecosystem. The survey information is being used as a guide to redirect human activities that would impair the corridor's ecological function.

Together with Mahale National Park we organised a first stakeholder meeting, gathering district governments, the regional road agency, TANAPA, as well as non-governmental and church organisations to discuss the impact of a proposed road along the east border of Mahale National Park. It was agreed that the road agency should carry out an ecological impact assessment before the project continues.

## Looking Ahead

Expanding protection to a larger part of the wider Mahale ecosystem is a challenge of integrating conservation with development. And sometimes a challenge of unforeseen developments. In the process of gazettement the Tongwe West Forest Reserve the project worked with eleven villages. But the Tanzanian government's decision not to resettle refugees from Burundi, living in the Mishamo refugee camps, has led to new permanent settlements in the area. 15 new villages have been formed on the border of the protected area. The Mahale Conservation Project will start working with the new villages, which implies significant up-scaling of activities.

But we can build on a large and growing body of experience and the support of the communities, who benefit from conservation.



A weekly meeting of a COCOBA-group.

proof metal sheet roofing on many houses is probably the most visible proof of the profits members are able to make.

Extending responsible forest use is another approach to integrate conservation and development. In 2016, we have successfully engaged with the Kasantongwe village in a Participatory Forestry Management (PFM) scheme, setting the foundation for forest protection and sustainable use of timber as a source of income.

With a view to expanding our conservation activities into the future, we have started the dialogue with the German KfW development bank and hosted a pre-feasibility mission team in Mahale to facilitate initial planning for the next five years.

## CONSERVATION PROJECTS & PROGRAMMES IN AFRICA 2016

| COUNTRY  | PROJECT   | WHAT IS IT ABOUT?  |
|----------|---|--|
| DR CONGO | <b>Maiko Conservation Project</b><br>Project area: 10,885 km <sup>2</sup><br>Project start: 2011<br>Project end: 2016                                 | Maiko National Park is a large and hugely diverse tract of rainforest, with okapi, gorillas and Congo peafowl. Through July 2016, we supported the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation to carry out park management activities.  |
| DR CONGO | <b>Virunga Conservation Programme</b><br>Project area: 7,800 km <sup>2</sup><br>Project start: 2002   | About half of the approximately 900 Mountain Gorillas alive today live in the mountainous forests of the Virunga volcanoes. FZS supports the Virunga National Park financially on specific and priority park management interventions.   |
| ETHIOPIA | <b>Afroalpine Ecosystem Conservation Project</b><br>Project area: 585 km <sup>2</sup><br>Project start: 2004  | In two northern Ethiopian highland regions, the Guassa and Abune Yoseph Community Conservation Areas (GCCA and ACCA), we focus our efforts on supporting community efforts to carry out sustainable natural resource management and on promoting conservation-compatible livelihoods.  |
| ETHIOPIA | <b>Bale Mountains Conservation Project</b><br>Project area: 2,200 km <sup>2</sup> (Park),<br>8,000 km <sup>2</sup> (Ecosystem)<br>Project start: 2004 | The Bale Mountains in Ethiopia are the largest remaining tract of Afroalpine ecosystem on the African continent, and provide habitat for many rare and endemic species such as the Ethiopian wolf and mountain nyala. FZS works with the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) to improve park management and prevent livestock grazing from damaging wetlands, grasslands and forests, as well as combatting forest clearing for coffee farming in the protected area. We also work extensively with local communities to improve and diversify their livelihood opportunities so that they are less dependent on natural resources. |



Mountain nyalas are common in the lowlands of the Bale Mountains. Nevertheless, only little is known about these antelopes so far.



## CONSERVATION SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS IN 2016

FZS funded three law enforcement and one monitoring patrol of 15 days each per month by Maiko National Park staff, and provided essential support for park administration. These efforts confirmed the presence of gorillas and ensured an effective conservation presence in the park.

Due to the security situation on the ground and the non-availability of funds we had to terminate the project in 2016.

FZS supported the installation of a digital radio network for Virunga National Park, with three repeaters and associated solar panels and batteries, 140 handheld radios and 15 mobile base stations. The new radio network is now the backbone of park management and has proved essential in the coordination of operations and logistics.

With FZS support, Abune Yoseph Community Conservation Area was formally declared the second (after Guassa) community-based conservation area in Ethiopia. The Amhara Region opened a support office for the Conservation Council.

Support for honey production by impoverished community members was very successful, increasing local income by about 170 Euro per household per year.

The Ethiopian wolf population in Guassa remains stable, with over 35 individuals counted last year.

We made possible a study tour to Namibia to look at how community hunting areas allowed both community members and government to develop an appropriate participatory management framework for Ethiopia. As a result, a new community-managed area was registered in the Bale Mountains, maximizing community benefits and ownership and thus helping secure both highland forest and populations of endangered and endemic mountain nyalas.

A new outpost was constructed and is now operational near the southern park boundary, serving as a base to patrol the southern forest.

The Sankate Coffee Village and trail were completed as a tourist attraction just outside the park.

A mineral water point was developed just outside the northern park boundary which has reduced livestock incursions into the park.

Ethiopian politicians and decision-makers visited Kenya to learn more about the potential for tourism development in Bale Mountains National Park. The trip provided a basis for discussions with government about the threat of settlement and livestock grazing to Bale's potential to generate tourism revenue.



FZS staff continuously collect data and document changes in the park. Vegetation cover, use of firewood and grazing are important parameters for an effective and efficient park management.



Horses are an ideal means of transport for the rangers in the Bale Mountains. FZS has employed a horse trainer who trains both horses and rangers in order to facilitate their cooperation in the field.

## CONSERVATION PROJECTS & PROGRAMMES IN AFRICA 2016

| COUNTRY  | PROJECT  | WHAT IS IT ABOUT?  |
|----------|--|--|
| TANZANIA | <p><b>Selous Conservation Project</b></p> <p><b>Project area:</b> 54,600 km<sup>2</sup> (Game Reserve), 100,000 km<sup>2</sup> (Ecosystem)</p> <p><b>Project start:</b> 2012</p> | <p>The Selous Game Reserve (SGR) is one of the largest remaining wilderness areas in the world. Poaching has decimated the Selous elephants and many other species are under threat as well. FZS and the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) jointly work to enhance anti-poaching measures and to introduce more effective monitoring and management. This will in time result in the recovery of elephants and other wildlife. The integrity of the Reserve faces significant threats from the potential construction of a hydro power dam and extraction of mineral resources.</p> |
| TANZANIA | <p><b>Serengeti Conservation Project</b></p> <p><b>Project area:</b> 14,750 km<sup>2</sup> (Park), 25,000 km<sup>2</sup> (Ecosystem)</p> <p><b>Project start:</b> 1957</p>       | <p>Our work in Serengeti National Park dates back to 1957, when Bernhard Grzimek started his ground-breaking work for the protection of the region. Today, we continue this work by collaborating closely with the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA) and providing critical financial and logistical support for resource protection, ecological and threat monitoring, and park management. Anti-poaching strategies are also a central focus of our work.</p>   |
| TANZANIA | <p><b>Serengeti Ecosystem Management</b></p> <p><b>Project start:</b> 2005</p>   | <p>Local communities living in the Serengeti Ecosystem often do not receive sufficient benefits from the area to care about its conservation. Nonetheless, communities rely on natural resources for their livelihoods and developing sustainable use is critical for ecosystem integrity.</p> <p>The Serengeti Ecosystem Management Project (SEMA) explores pathways both for the protection of natural resources and the development of alternative, conservation-compatible livelihood opportunities.</p>   |
| TANZANIA | <p><b>Mahale Conservation Project</b></p> <p><b>Project area:</b> 1,613 km<sup>2</sup> (Park), 19,446 km<sup>2</sup> (Ecosystem)</p> <p><b>Project start:</b> 2004</p>           | <p>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 widening the area under protection within the GME to include community forest and wildlife areas.</p>   |



## CONSERVATION SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS IN 2016

FZS has provided ten anti-poaching vehicles fitted and deployed for operational use. In addition, 200,000 USD worth of ranger equipment has been supplied along with a patrol boat and engines.

The vehicle workshop is complete.

Aerial surveillance has been upgraded, with the FZS Selous pilot trained to operate the FZS Aviat Husky spotter plane, and ongoing support provided by an FZS Cessna. FZS has constructed a new aircraft hangar and rehabilitated three airstrips.

The digital radio system has been upgraded with two new towers. The satellite-based reporting and monitoring systems have been improved to enable communications across the reserve.

250 rangers have been trained in data collection and reporting.

FZS undertook a major upgrade of the Serengeti National Park (SENAPA) anti-poaching vehicle fleet and we purchased eleven new vehicles for field operations.

FZS aerial surveillance for the Park includes a dedicated spotter plane (Aviat Husky) providing monitoring and threat-related data to the SENAPA operations room, and a Cessna 182 for logistical support. The hangars and operational base for these aircraft were upgraded during the year.

Vital equipment and rations were provided to the SENAPA rhino monitoring teams, and two strategic ranger posts were constructed to improve protection of this critically important population.

Enhancements to the digital VHF radio system continued, with solar power provided at each repeater station, to improve monitoring and law enforcement communication.

An experienced new management team, Rian and Lorna Labuschagne, was recruited for the project at the end of the year, with expertise in park operations, law enforcement, communications and rhino monitoring.

The resource use plan for the Ikona Wildlife Management Area (WMA) was developed with village input. This establishes areas for conservation, grazing and settlement.

Good governance training was provided to all five Ikona WMA villages.

Ikona village game scouts were trained to better address human-elephant conflict.

In Makao WMA, beacons were placed to demarcate the boundary according to the agreed-upon local village land-use plans.

In Loliondo, the Sarian Forest general management plan was drafted with village input, helping to conserve this vital catchment forest.

Five new community conservation banks were formed making 41 in total, with strong links provided to investment in sustainable livelihoods and conservation.

A Serengeti ecosystem-wide livestock census was completed for TAWIRI. This showed the ongoing livestock pressures on the ecosystem.

Construction of FZS and SENAPA shared offices and staff houses neared completion.

FZS, working with Mpanda District, gathered all the necessary village agreements and documentation for the upgraded protection of the Tongwe West Local Authority Forest Reserve. This is now with the Ministry for approval.

The Mahale Katavi corridor was surveyed and information is being used to guide human activities away from the wildlife corridor identified there.

Training was held with 27 villages to support the expanding community conservation banks (COCOBA). Three new groups were established bringing the number to 60.

Forest monitoring and protection have been ongoing amongst the project village game scouts, and one new village was included in the participatory forest management approach developed by the project.

## CONSERVATION PROJECTS & PROGRAMMES IN AFRICA 2016

| COUNTRY  | PROJECT   | WHAT IS IT ABOUT?   |
|----------|---|---|
| ZAMBIA   | <p><b>North Luangwa Conservation Programme</b></p> <p><b>Project area:</b> 4,636 km<sup>2</sup> (Park), 22,000 km<sup>2</sup> (Ecosystem)</p> <p><b>Project start:</b> 1986</p> | <p>The Programme works to support the North Luangwa National Park and four adjacent Game Management Areas forming the greater North Luangwa ecosystem. The partnership with Zambia's Department of National Parks and Wildlife focuses on protected area management, particularly law enforcement to ensure the large population of elephants and the country's only black rhinos are protected. We also scaled up work in 2016 to work with local communities to increase their ability to manage natural resources and benefit-sharing.</p>   |
| ZIMBABWE | <p><b>Gonarezhou Conservation Project</b></p> <p><b>Project area:</b> 5,053 km<sup>2</sup> (Park), 100,000 km<sup>2</sup> (Ecosystem)</p> <p><b>Project start:</b> 2007</p>     | <p>Gonarezhou National Park is the second largest national park in Zimbabwe and home to both iconic landscapes and a globally significant population of African elephants. In 2016, we founded the Gonarezhou Conservation Trust, a new partnership for co-management, with the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority. The trust focuses on support to park management, ensuring good law enforcement coverage and effectiveness, maintenance and improvements of infrastructure, provision and maintenance of equipment, as well as developing and managing tourism, a key income provider to the area.</p> |



Intense ranger training ensures that patrols are effective and sustainable and that equipment is used correctly.



## CONSERVATION SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS IN 2016

The North Luangwa Conservation Programme celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an event at the German Embassy in Lusaka hosted by the German Ambassador.

The upscaling of support to the Rhino and Elephant Protection Unit, wildlife crime Canine Unit and Intelligence and Investigations Units have resulted in the arrests and convictions of high profile poachers, buyers and traders.

A digital radio network was installed to provide real-time feedback on the position of all patrols and vehicles in the park to the control room.

The new Husky Aviat aircraft began its operations across the ecosystem. Its versatility has greatly enhanced black rhino and elephant monitoring and protection.

The North Luangwa Ecosystem Project began in May 2016. It aims to strengthen ecosystem management by encouraging community participation in conservation and stimulating private investment in enterprise opportunities for greater revenue generation and sharing. In 2016, 260 committee members were trained as office holders, and in promoting accountability and good governance.

The Gonarezhou Conservation Trust was formed in August. This innovative management approach for Gonarezhou National Park aims to achieve financial sustainability, to enhance partnerships with the local communities and to protect Zimbabwe's natural heritage.

35 new cadet rangers have been selected and trained and are now absorbed into the Trust's workforce.

Two new detection dogs were recruited to the canine unit.

The digital radio network was expanded with a third repeater, enabling real time feedback on the position of all patrols and vehicles in the park to the control room.

An aerial survey was conducted and confirmed the increase in elephant population to between 8,800 – 12,600 animals.

The wild dog population is thriving with over 160 dogs recorded in 2016.



The North Luangwa K9-unit is very successful. In 2016, the sniffer dogs were responsible for 85 out of 330 arrests in connection with wildlife trafficking in the North Luangwa ecosystem.





EUROPE &  
CENTRAL ASIA

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# SAFEGUARDING WHAT IS LEFT — WILDERNESS PROTECTION IN EUROPE



Saving Europe's most important wilderness areas but also supporting new initiatives in Germany to increase its wilderness register and allowing new primeval forests to grow for future generations – these are the two pillars of FZS's European Department.

## ■ 9 Projects

## ■ 7 Project Countries

<sup>1</sup> Belarus

<sup>2</sup> Germany

<sup>3</sup> Kazakhstan

<sup>4</sup> Poland

<sup>5</sup> Romania

<sup>6</sup> Slovakia

<sup>7</sup> Ukraine

## ■ Wilderness Online

[www.wildnis-in-deutschland.de](http://www.wildnis-in-deutschland.de)





View of the Ukrainian Uzhansky National Park.

## FROM THE FIELD

## CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS, UKRAINE

# Forgotten Wilderness in the Middle of Europe



“Unforgettable, the peculiar impression of the majestic forests of the Carpathians in their natural state and peacefulness, animated only by the rushing of mountain streams and the wind, and here and there interrupted by the distant crash of an ancient tree falling to the ground.” These were the glowing words of Swiss forestry engineer, Conrad Roth, in 1932, following his travels in the service of a lumber trading company through the Carpathians to what is today western Ukraine.

Over eighty years later, the Carpathians leave the same impression in many places. Standing on the highest mountain in Ukraine, the 2,061 metre Howerla, you can gaze out over a nearly completely forested mountain range. Only isolated mountain pastures can be seen and in some places bright patches in the forest point to clear cutting.

## Situation on the Ground

The most common species of tree is beech. In many areas, there is virgin forest with trees that are hundreds of years old. More than three-quarters of the tree trunks have a diameter of over one metre and the percentage of deadwood, an important substrate for insects, mushrooms, lichens and moss, is many times greater than that of forests in Germany. Many ancient forest relict species, such as highly specialised beetles and tree fungi that are rare or extinct in Germany, live in large numbers in the extensive virgin forests.



In higher regions, particularly on the border of Romania, one can find impressive virgin spruce forests; in the southern foothills of the Carpathians along the Tisza river there are significant areas of old growth oak forest. Around 300 brown bears live in the region and there are also important populations of wolf and lynx. Capercaille and black grouse inhabit higher elevations at the tree line.

In 2007, ten areas in Ukraine and Slovakia were given the common designation “Beech Forests of the Carpathians” and the status of UNESCO World Natural Heritage sites. Ukraine has been working for decades to protect its natural treasures. Between 2008–2010, 26 new national parks were created, three in the Carpathians alone. In 2000, a ban was put on all clearing above 1,100 metres. European wood and timber companies are on the move, however, and have begun building large saw mills. These are the same companies that left barren moon landscapes behind in Romania.

These are difficult economic times for Ukraine and the financing of national parks is insufficient. Government funding from Kiev generally covers the salaries of rangers and park staff. Patrols are most often carried out in old private vehicles and petrol is frequently paid for out of the rangers’ own pockets. The exploitation of Europe’s last virgin forests can now be seen in many parts of the Carpathians. Enormous clear cuts are taking place, often exposing slopes to erosion and landslides.

In 2012, FZS began a cooperation with nine new national park administrations in the Ukrainian part of the Carpathians. The goal of our efforts is to integrate valuable, yet unprotected forests, into existing conservation areas in order to preserve them for the long term. In collaboration with park administrations and scientists, a map was created that showed the potential for an expansion of a total of 1,000 square kilometres. Currently, national parks cover about 2,500 square kilometres. This expansion proposal corresponds to an area equal to approximately ten national parks in Germany. At the same time, FZS – supported by partners such as the Manfred Hermsen Foundation – is providing direct support to the national parks. We are providing rangers with vehicles and all-terrain motorcycles so that they can patrol their areas. We are also building ranger stations so that park staff does not have to make day-long hikes to their place of work.

## Steps taken in 2016

Since spring 2016, Ukrainian superstar, Ruslana Lyzhycho, has been supporting our project as a committed voice of the Carpathians. This is where she grew up, and she maintains not only a strong sense of home, but a responsibility to conserve it.

Ruslana has been working passionately for the planned national parks and has challenged the Prime Minister of the country to back the planned expansion. The head of state promptly directed the responsible ministries and local authorities to support the expansion plans. Following intense discussions in 2016 among

FZS project partners, the Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds, national park authorities and state-run wood and timber companies, we can report on a first success. The companies have agreed to the expansion of three parks, and the governor of the area in Transcarpathia, where all three parks are located, has offered his approval. Uzhanskyi, Synevyr and Zcharovany Krai will grow by a total of more than 250 square kilometres if president Petro Poroschenko approves. And everyone agrees that this is only a first step. 760 square kilometres are waiting to be incorporated into the remaining national parks.

## Looking Ahead

The political work that will be needed to protect for the long term these remaining areas will continue to be the focus of our project in the coming years. As a next step, we will set up a website that will provide information about the special significance of the Carpathians and create a platform for conservation stakeholders. Ruslana Lyzhychko will produce a number of short films for this web-based resource.

FZS will continue to provide national parks with vehicles and equipment and will press on with the national park expansion plans and accreditation proceedings.

Since 2016, desperately needed investments in infrastructure, equipment and training for staff have been made in the context of a project financed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) via the KfW Development Bank. The project is being implemented by a consulting consortium composed of the AHT Group AG, FZS, WWF Danube-Carpathians Project and the Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds (USPB).

2016 also saw the expansion of our activities to include a socio-economic sub-project. This is necessary because the success of the national park depends on the local population supporting conservation goals. In the context of these new project components, we are working to create new, conservation-friendly employment opportunities. The first stage in this sub-project will be to market high-quality, sustainably-produced, foodstuffs from the national park regions. In the region surrounding Skolivskiy Beskydy National Park, for instance, a brand for local products, such as honey, marmalade and tea, has already been established. The plan is to build on this initiative and expand to the eight other national parks participating in the project.

## FROM THE FIELD

### POLESIE BELARUS

# Supporting National Parks and Creating New Conservation Areas



“Wilderness without Borders” – that would be the perfect motto for Polesie, a lowland region of Eastern Europe surrounded by forests and wetlands. Its size alone is impressive. At over 186,000 square kilometres, the area is about half the size of Germany. And Polesie really is borderless in the sense that it transgresses the national boundaries of Belarus, Poland, Russia and Ukraine.

The heart of Polesie is the Pripyat, which extends some 700 kilometres. The river’s countless meanders, tributaries and oxbows, shape the region in a special way: The landscape is a true labyrinth of waters, islands, swamps, wetlands, and alluvial forests. Despite major impacts on nature during the Soviet period, large expanses have remained completely undisturbed by humans. The extensive forests offer large mammals, such as brown bear, wolverine, lynx and the European bison, refuge in the river wetlands of the Pripyat and provide an important resting place for aquatic birds on their migrations during the spring and fall. Numerous bird species roost in the wetlands, among them are globally endangered species, such as the aquatic warbler and the greater spotted eagle. Many parts of Polesie are of international importance for nature conservation and have been recognised as UNESCO biosphere reserves or Ramsar Convention sites. The river flood plains are also a key resting place for millions of migratory birds, including Eurasian wigeon (as many as 350,000 birds), ruffs (up to 200,000 birds) and black-tailed godwit. This yearly gathering of wigeons and godwits on the flood plains of the Pripyat is the largest in all of Central and Eastern Europe.



## Situation on the Ground

This natural paradise is in danger. The draining of wetlands and the disruption of habitat through infrastructure projects and the spread of forestry are threatening Polesie. The planned construction of a 3,000 kilometre waterway extending from the Black Sea to the Baltic would have disastrous consequences. Major construction would be required in order to make the Pripyat passable year-round. The plans call for deepening the riverbed, straightening the river course and the creation of dikes and dams. This would fundamentally affect the flooding regime and destroy a number of oxbow lakes.

In 2015, these very concerning developments prompted FZS to get involved in the core area of Polesie in Belarus. Our partners on-site are carrying out scientific studies on species populations and the impacts of human disturbances. The findings will drive the formulation of a plan to protect this valuable habitat. The conservation plan will focus on creating new conservation areas and mustering the requisite political and public support to make it happen.





Numerous bird species breed in the wetlands along the Pripjat river, including threatened species such as aquatic warblers and greater spotted eagle.

## Steps taken in 2016

An initial survey of Polesie, conducted in 2015, identified over 109 valuable, areas of high conservation value, some of which did not yet have any protection status at all. We want to be certain that FZS's investment in the Polesie region is focused on areas where our efforts make the most sense and will be the most effective.

In a second step, in 2016 we completed the formalities for 12 applications to the Emerald Network to have parts of the Polesie designated so-called Areas of Special Conservation Interest. These are areas that receive special protection according to similar criteria as the Natura 2000 areas. The countries are then committed to uphold protection measures for species and their habitats.

Based on this preliminary work in 2015 and 2016, FZS has formulated a long-term implementation plan for Polesie and targeted areas.

## Looking Ahead

Thanks to the increased funding capacity of our partner, the "Stiftung Vogelschutz in Feuchtgebieten" foundation, it will be possi-

ble to markedly increase our project activities in Polesie starting in 2017. After two years of planning and preparations, we are for the first time in a position to support conservation areas in Polesie with equipment and to proceed with securing protection status for new conservation areas.

FZS and our project partners are focusing on the core area of Polesie in the central Pripjat region (Pripjat National Park – Almany – Stary Zadzien). In addition to preparing new conservation areas, the project team on site will be concerned with directly averting threats, such as wetland drainage, habitat change caused by forestry and intensive, unsustainable resource extraction. The team is collecting and analysing data as a basis for developing and implementing action plans.

The project team will also be addressing the E-40 waterway project. Carrying out a census of migratory birds and an independent study of the planning document will make it possible to assess the impact of the construction project. The team will also lead public outreach efforts to provide information on the importance of the flood plains and the repercussions of the planned development of the Pripjat.



## CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA 2016

| COUNTRY | PROJECT  | WHAT IS IT ABOUT?  |
|---------|--|--|
| ROMANIA | <p><b>Creation of a Forest Conservation Area in Romania</b></p> <p><b>Project area:</b> 2,000 km<sup>2</sup><br/>(National park and Natura 2000 areas)<br/><b>Project start:</b> 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 1,000 square kilometres private conservation area around Piatra Craiului National Park. This conservation area will flank government protection efforts.</p>  |
| UKRAINE | <p><b>Protection of Primary Forest in the Ukrainian Carpathians</b></p> <p><b>Project area:</b> 2,000 km<sup>2</sup> (all national parks participating in the project),<br/>24,000 km<sup>2</sup> (Ukrainian Carpathians)<br/><b>Project start:</b> 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 currently unprotected wilderness in the Ukrainian part of the Carpathians. FZS and our project partner intend to integrate a total of another 1,000 square kilometres of forest wilderness into existing conservation areas. The project goal is thus to expand nine national parks in the Ukrainian Carpathians in order to protect valuable forest wilderness and to support and strengthen conservation area management structures.</p> |



Together with partners, FZS is working in three project areas in the Carpathians: In the Fagaras Mountains in Romania, in the Ukrainian parts of the Carpathians and in the "Wolf Mountains" on the border triangle of Slovakia, Poland and Ukraine. The latter project area amounts to 5,000 square kilometres.



## CONSERVATION SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS IN 2016

Progress was made on the FCC-project in the Carpathian Mountains of Romania, which is dedicated to creating a new national park in the Fagaras Mountains. In September 2016, the Romanian government decided to initiate the process to achieve national park status for the area.

In addition to its political activities, our partner, Fundatia Conservation Carpathia (FCC), has pushed forward with conservation work on the land that it controls. 300,000 saplings have been planted on clear-cut areas and eight kilometres of former forest roads have been renaturalised. The Foundation also purchased over 10 square kilometres of forest and put it under protection. Currently, the foundation presides over 200 square kilometres of forest.

Since 2013, FZS has supported its project partners in Ukraine in their efforts to expand existing, large conservation areas with the addition of ecologically valuable forest. Our partners began lobbying and completing the required formalities in 2015. This is a process that can take several years and this is easier in the case of some national parks than others. But we can already point to progress made. In 2016, we were given the go-ahead for the integration of 250 square kilometres into the national park. The country's president still has to approve this integration.

Cooperating with other NGOs, the Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds (USPB) last year formulated a draft proposal for a law that would put all areas that have been identified as pristine forest, under legal protection. The proposed law is now being debated in the Ukrainian parliament.



In the Carpathians there is still enough space for a brown bear populations.

## CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA 2016

| COUNTRY | PROJECT  | WHAT IS IT ABOUT?  |
|---------|--|--|
| GERMANY | <p><b>Wilderness in Germany</b></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 landmass. 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. 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>   |
| GERMANY | <p><b>Wilderness in Brandenburg</b></p> <p>Project area: 128 km<sup>2</sup> (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. Tomorrow's wilderness is developing on the foundation's 128 square kilometres 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> |
| GERMANY | <p><b>Hohe Schrecke – Old-Growth Forest with a Future</b></p> <p>Project area: 16 km<sup>2</sup> (Wilderness Area), 73 km<sup>2</sup> (Total Forest Area)</p> <p>Project start: 2009</p> | <p>Hohe Schrecke is an approximately 73 square kilometres 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. Since 2009, the David Nature Foundation (Naturstiftung David) has headed the Hohe Schrecke 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 (20 square kilometres) by 2023.</p>   |
| GERMANY | <p><b>Günztal Biotope Network – Bavaria</b></p> <p>Project area: 707 km<sup>2</sup> (Biotope 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-kilometre 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.</p>  |



## CONSERVATION SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS IN 2016

In 2016, FZS established itself as the main authority on “Wilderness in Germany” for specialists and the media. The internet portal [www.wildnis-in-deutschland.de](http://www.wildnis-in-deutschland.de), which went online at the beginning of the year, plays an important role. The website provides arguments, background information and material for those fighting for more wilderness in Germany. A promotional film, produced by FZS in 2016, is also available for download. It was officially presented in January, 2017 at the “National Forum for Biodiversity” in Berlin. FZS manages the portal for 16 nature conservation organisations that have combined to form the “Wilderness in Germany” initiative. The initiative’s partners, which include BUND, DUH, Greenpeace, NABU and WWF, are committed to advancing the debate on wilderness in Germany.

Already in 2015, FZS, BUND, Greenpeace, NABU and WWF presented a concept for protecting large forest areas in the state of Hessen. This trans-organisational effort, which is coordinated by FZS, has paid off. In May 2016, the Ministry of the Environment of Hessen classified 60 square kilometres of state-owned forest as so-called core nature protection areas. This includes over 10 square kilometres in the Wispertaunus and other larger forest areas. In Thuringia as well, the Ministry of the Environment is working to create a large, connected forest wilderness area. The Possen Forest is particularly promising in this context, where there is already a citizen-led wilderness initiative and local politicians also support the conservation area. Last year, FZS supported Thuringia’s Ministry of the Environment and the citizen’s group and participated in a number of events.

With the support of FZS, the Brandenburg Wilderness Foundation (Stiftung Naturlandschaften Brandenburg, SNLB) last year continued to dedicate itself to planning an international nature conservation exhibition (INA).

In the context of the INA preparations, SNLB and Landesbetrieb Forst (LFB), the regional forest authority, collaborated on the development of a concept to convert the fir forest surrounding the SNLB lands at Lieberose into a near-naturally managed, mixed forest that will serve as a buffer zone for the wilderness area. This project will set new standards in forestry and during the INA demonstrate the potential of targeted forest conversion.

SNLB has initiated discussions with the management of Schloss Lieberose regarding the possibility of locating the planned visitor centre in the castle. The Foundation is also working intensively on the creation of a hiking network that will connect all INA light-house projects.

With the financial support of FZS and other partners, the Foundation was able to purchase 46,000 square metres of forest in the so-called extended Wiegental. This valley is particularly valuable for conservation. As a formerly restricted military zone for decades, the area was almost completely shielded from human impacts. 100-year-old stands of beech, oak and pine exist on this land, and wildcat has also been identified. By purchasing the exploitation rights to forest areas, the Foundation has been able to secure an additional 0.46 square kilometres at Hohe Schrecke for wilderness conservation. This is primarily old-growth beech and oak forest with a high percentage of habitat trees and deadwood that provide a home for various bird, bat and beetle species.

Negotiations regarding the new hiking network with all stakeholders (owners, municipalities, districts and authorities) are nearly complete. At the end of the year, a new hiking map was produced that came out in 2017.

The David Nature Foundation also continued its awareness-raising and public relations work at the regional and trans-regional level. The Hohe Schrecke journal, which has played an essential role in fostering public acceptance of this large nature protection project, was delivered to 6,000 households in the region. The project team carried out 14 excursions and presented the project at several local, civic events.

As in previous years, in 2016 the Günztal Cultural Landscape Foundation (Stiftung KulturLandschaft Günztal) was able to expand its land conservation efforts. The purchase of land and lease agreements now ensure the protection of about 0.7 square kilometres of land in Günztal. Working with FlächenAgentur Günztal, the Foundation has, in exchange, provided 0.4 square kilometres of compensation land for building in the region.

## CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA 2016

| COUNTRY                                | PROJECT   | WHAT IS IT ABOUT?   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>KAZAKHSTAN</b>                      | <p><b>Protection of Steppe and Saiga Antelopes in Kazakhstan</b></p> <p><b>Project area:</b> 55,000 km<sup>2</sup> (Conservation Areas), 560,000 km<sup>2</sup> (Total Altyn Dala Region)<br/> <b>Project start:</b> 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 home the largest global population of saigas – even though a decade ago poachers killed more than 90 percent of the population. In 2002, the saiga was in danger of disappearing and was included in the IUCN red list as 'critically endangered.' 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 &amp; Flora International (FFI), in the Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative.</p> <p>FZS also supports 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> |
| <b>SLOVAKIA<br/>POLAND<br/>UKRAINE</b> | <p><b>Trans-border Protection of Ancient Forest in the Eastern Carpathians</b></p> <p><b>Project area:</b> 2,000 km<sup>2</sup> (target area)<br/> <b>Project start:</b> 2016</p>   | <p>In the heart of the Carpathians in the border region between Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine, there exists one of the last large natural treasures in Central Europe. Spanning over 2,000 square kilometres, the region encompasses old-growth spruce and beech forest, mountain meadows and pristine river courses.</p> <p>By purchasing land on the Slovakian side of the Carpathians and improving its protection status, FZS aims to secure large parts of the Wolf Mountains for the preservation and creation of wilderness. The land purchases go hand-in-hand with classical nature conservation work.</p>  |
| <b>BELARUS</b>                         | <p><b>Protection of Bialowieza/Bielaviežškaja Pušča Wilderness</b></p> <p><b>Project area:</b> 1,500 km<sup>2</sup> (National Park, Belarussian side), 2,000 km<sup>2</sup> (Total Forest Area)<br/> <b>Project start:</b> 2012</p> | <p>The extensive Bialowieza forest system is one of Europe's last remaining natural lowland forest areas. 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>   |
| <b>BELARUS</b>                         | <p><b>Wilderness without Borders – New Protected Areas in Polesie</b></p> <p><b>Project area:</b> 186,000 km<sup>2</sup> (all of Polesie)<br/> <b>Project start:</b> 2015</p>   | <p>One of Europe's largest wilderness areas lies in the border region of Belarus, Poland and Russia. Many large mammals live here, species like brown bear, wolf, lynx and bison. Here one can still find extensive forests and wetlands that include low mires, river flood plains and meadows. These provide essential resting places for migrating waterfowl. Increasing resource exploitation (particularly wood, but also berries and mushrooms) and insufficient government protection for the area are putting the Polesie at risk.</p> <p>Additionally, there are plans to make the Prypjat River passable for year-round shipping. The planned waterway would impact several protected areas – including those with Ramsar or Important Bird Area status.</p>  |



## CONSERVATION SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS IN 2016

Following the shocking experience of the mass die-off of saiga antelopes in 2015, the project was reorganised. Among the changes is the inclusion of Ural and Ustyurt populations in the project area, which now encompasses about 750,000 square kilometres. FZS worked with the Kazakh government to create a list of conservation measures designed to better protect the threatened antelopes.

Our local partner, the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK) succeeded once again in winning the contract to conduct an aerial census of the saigas. Using the tested method, it was possible to count all three Kazakh populations from the air. 70,000 saigas were counted in the world's largest population in the Urals. At 1,900 antelopes, the Ustyurt population continues to be a cause of concern. The Betpak Dala population, which was affected by the mass die-off in 2015, has grown marginally and now encompasses 36,000 saigas.

In 2016, the Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative (ADCI) launched a project to relocate kulan, also known as Asiatic wild ass, to the Torgai steppe in central Kazakhstan. Due to the dramatic decline of the kulan populations in other central Asian countries, protecting this species in Kazakhstan has become all the more important. The plan is to relocate kulan from Altyn Emel National Park in southeastern Kazakhstan. The first transport is scheduled to take place in 2017.

Shortly before the end of the year, there was very good news from the Kazakh government. The expansion of the Irgiz Turgai Reserve, which had been approved several years ago, is now official. The integration of 4,100 square kilometres of land that is crucially important for the migration and reproduction of saigas brings the total area of protected land to an impressive total of 11,730 square kilometres. The basis of the expansion was data collected over the course of the project via satellite-capable collars. The data allowed the ADCI to identify the expansion lands as ideal habitat for the saigas.

A key focus of the project is the purchase of land. During the project's first year, we were primarily concerned with determining the ownership of relevant tracts and conducting initial discussions with owners. Effective, long-term nature conservation requires the support of local people in the region.

In 2016, a workshop for professional nature photographers was held in the Polish part of the Wolf Mountains. The result was a book of photographs that was published in fall 2016. At present, a campaign is being prepared to spread information on the topic of forest protection.

Our partners from the Slovakian Aegis Foundation have hired a tourism coordinator to develop and implement a sustainable tourism concept.

After a year-long phase of preparation, in December 2016, 75 kilometres of drainage and 112 dams were removed in the fen mire of Dziki Nikar, which has only relatively recently been integrated into the national park. Water is now collecting again and the process of regenerating over 11 square kilometres of mire has begun. Rare species, such as corn crake, great snipe and greater spotted eagle, can now find suitable habitat here again.

Planning continues for a project to restore to its natural state a four kilometre-long stretch of the Solomenka River, which had been straightened. Restoration work will commence in 2017.

Thanks to the Stiftung Vogelschutz in Feuchtgebieten, in 2016 we were able to resume work on the project after an interruption.

An initial survey identified over 109 areas that are valuable from a conservation point of view and that currently do not have any protection status. The objective was to make a selection of sites in the enormous Polesie region where it makes sense for FZS to make a long-term, meaningful impact.

In a second step, in 2016 FZS completed the formalities for 12 applications to the Emerald Network to have parts of the Polesie designated so-called Areas of Special Conservation Interest. These are areas that receive special protection according to similar criteria as the Natura 2000 areas. The countries are then committed to implementing protection measures for species and their habitats.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

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# FROM SPECIES PROTECTION TO LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION





The countries of Southeast Asia are characterised by a high population density and increasing pressure on the last remaining natural areas. Protected areas become the last safe havens for a rich flora and fauna including a number of unique species. FZS aims to conserve these species – orangutans, langures, gibbons as well as Sumatran tigers and elephants.



■ **2,500 km<sup>2</sup>**  
*of natural forests and rainforests are being protected in our Bukit Tigapuluh landscape conservation programme*

■ **800 km<sup>2</sup>**  
*of mountainous forests are being protected by FZS in Vietnam*

■ **2 Project Countries**  
<sup>1</sup> Sumatra, Indonesia  
<sup>2</sup> Vietnam

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



The grey-shanked douc (*Pygathrix cinerea*) is endemic to the Vietnamese highlands. In the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species the grey-shanked douc is listed as critically endangered.

#### FROM THE FIELD

### CENTRAL MOUNTAIN REGION FOREST CONSERVATION, VIETNAM

## In the Realm of the Douc Langurs



A group of real aerial artists sits in the treetops in Kon Ka Kinh National Park in Vietnam's Central Highlands. And they are pretty well-dressed, too. Grey caps, orange scarves, white stockings on knees and forearms, and black shoes. The grey-shanked douc live in Kon Ka Kinh National Park and only in central Vietnam – they are in danger of becoming extinct. They swing effortlessly from tree to tree, performing seemingly death-defying leaps and bounds. Thanks to their supple shoulder joints, acute depth of field, prehensile tail and excellent hand-eye coordination, they are masters of the upper realms of the conservation area.

Kon Ka Kinh National Park was founded 15 years ago, and at 420 square kilometres it is among Vietnam's largest national parks. It combines various altitudes and climate zones, providing habitat for many threatened animals. In addition to many monkey species, such as gibbons, the park provides a home for over 160 species of birds. As late as 2001, the chestnut-eared laughing thrush (*Garrulax konkakinhensis*) was discovered and scientifically described. The mountains of Kon Ka Kinh are an important watershed for the region, and as a part of the upper of the Annamites they are also part of the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot. As a result of its unique flora and fauna, the area has also been designated an ASEAN Heritage Park.



## Situation on the Ground

Vietnam's wildlife is under immense pressure. This is particularly true of the country's primates, which are all on the Red List of Threatened Species. The greatest threat is posed by poaching. Traditional medicines, such as monkey balm or tablets, which are supposed to help against muscle aches, and bush meat from primates are still being sold. Vietnam – that small country on the coast of the southern Chinese Ocean – is a major hub of illegal trade in wild animals. The Vietnamese government estimated in 2008 that about 4.500 tons of wild animals and animal products are traded in Vietnam annually. Half of this is consumed in the country and poaching is an everyday reality. In addition, economic development in the past decade especially, has encroached on virgin landscapes.

## Steps taken in 2016

FZS's most important responsibility in 2016 was again to support the national park administration in protecting the park. Our role was to provide ranger training. Last year, 55 rangers participated in further training on the topic of forest law with an emphasis on practical measures to counter illegal activities. We contributed by helping rangers conduct their monthly forest patrols. In all, 274 traps were destroyed last year and eleven logging camps put out of commission. Cooperating with local police, rangers helped with the confiscation of 20 illegal firearms in the villages. A newly installed camera system at the entrance to the park has improved surveillance of those entering in this way. Thanks to the financial support of the Species Protection Foundation (Stiftung Artenschutz), it was possible to carry out for the second time a census of yellow-cheeked gibbons living in the park. 34 groups encompassing 134 individuals were identified.

In addition to improving the protection of the national park, we also continued to engage in environmental education activities in the surrounding villages – an important component of our project and crucial to our overall success. Last year, 500 children from the Bana people participated in our initiatives. We also engaged in regular informational meetings on the topic of conservation with the adult Bana population, which maintain a close relationship with the mountains and forest. 640 Banas took part in 2016. Four village leaders and four park staff have committed to serving as mediators between villagers and rangers and to promoting the implementation of our objectives. We conducted a preparatory seminar to provide these dedicated individuals with the necessary training to complete their tasks.



Students of the University of Danang attending a nine-day field biology course in Kon Ka Kinh.

In addition, we would like to expand the scope of the conservation area. To achieve this goal, the FZS team in Vietnam is collaborating with “GreenViet – Biodiversity Conservation Centre” on a three-month field study to identify the species living in a green corridor between Kon Ka Kinh National Park and the nearby 220 square kilometres Kon Cha Rãng Nature Reserve. The collected data are an important foundation for expansion talks with Gai Lai Province authorities.

## Looking Ahead

Vietnam is still characterised by a traditional way of life, but the country has experienced rapid economic development in recent years. Nature and conservation issues are not the most pressing concerns at present – that's why it is important for us to be present there for the long term. In collaboration with the Department of Nature Conservation (DoNC) in Hanoi and with Fauna & Flora International (FFI), we were able to complete the “Primate Action Plan.” Among other things, this initiative has the goal of reducing illegal hunting in animals by 70 percent by 2025. It was signed by Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phúc in spring 2017. This is an encouraging sign, since the government is taking responsibility for species protection – particularly primate protection – with a concrete plan.

## CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA 2016

| COUNTRY | PROJECT   | WHAT IS IT ABOUT?   |
|---------|---|---|
| SUMATRA | <b>Bukit Tigapuluh Landscape Conservation Programme</b><br><br><b>Project area:</b> 1,450 km <sup>2</sup> (Park), 2,500 km <sup>2</sup> (Forest Area)<br><b>Project start:</b> 2000 | <p>The Bukit Tigapuluh Ecosystem represents one of the largest contiguous lowland rainforests on Sumatra. It is the home of Sumatra elephants and Sumatra tigers. Orangutans have been brought back to Bukit Tigapuluh over the last 15 years. Our work focuses on the protection of habitat in the national park and surrounding areas.</p>                                |
|         | Orangutan reintroduction  |   |
|         | Human-elephant-conflict mitigation  |   |
|         | Environmental education   |   |
| VIETNAM | <b>Forest Protection in the Central Highlands Region</b><br><br><b>Project area:</b> 450 km <sup>2</sup> (Park), 800 km <sup>2</sup> (Forest Area)<br><b>Project start:</b> 2010    | <p>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.</p> <p>FZS has been supporting the management of Kon Ka Kinh National Park since 2010.</p> |



Conservation on Sumatra is challenging – both for people and equipment.



## CONSERVATION SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS IN 2016

In addition to park protection, a focus of the Bukit Tigapuluh Landscape Conservation Programme in 2016 was wildlife monitoring. During the second half of the year the project team installed 58 camera traps. Over 30 different mammal species were recorded, among them tigers, elephants, Malayan bears, tapirs and many others.

To date the orangutan reintroduction project has released 169 animals that had previously been held illegally and then confiscated. In 2016, eight orangutans were set free in Bukit Tigapuluh National Park. Four had to be taken in again to treat injuries or because of other complications and have since been released once again. Eight births in the wild have been recorded, two in 2016. In addition, Nyaru from the Perth Zoo in Australia was released in Bukit Tigapuluh following a period of intense preparation.

In Fall 2016, the elephant bull, Haris, was successfully relocated to the conservation concession Harapan located 300 kilometres away in an area where there are only elephant cows.

The network to mitigate conflicts between villagers and elephants on the borders of Bukit Tigapuluh National Park has grown to 185 members. Workshops in which villagers learn how to effectively protect crops from elephants are well attended. More than 100 small-scale farmers from 15 working groups participated and are receiving long-term support.

The environmental education programme is focusing increasingly on teachers as a focus group. Following the first round of training in 2015, the additional training courses took place this past year. The teachers are actively participating in developing the individual modules for use in schools. We receive expert support for the project from the environmental education association, YAPEKA.

In partnership with the Department of Nature Conservation (DoNC) and Fauna & Flora International (FFI), FZS has been pressing on with the Primate Action Plan, whose objective is to reduce illegal trade in wildlife 70 percent by 2025. Vietnamese Prime Minister, Nguyễn Xuân Phúc, authorised the plan in May, 2017.

By promoting the training of rangers in Kon-Ka-Kinh National Park, FZS helps protect the area from poaching and illegal logging. 55 rangers completed a seminar on their legal rights in countering illegal activities in the park. SMART monitoring software is used to more effectively organise park protection. In 2016, twice as many rangers were using the software than the year before. In a joint raid conducted with local police, rangers succeeded in confiscating 20 illegal firearms in the villages.

Several respected representatives of the Bana people who live outside the park were convinced to help spread the word about the concept of the conservation area. Working with local people makes an enormous difference, since they are respected and better able to approach members of their peoples.



FZS veterinarian, Andhani Widya, operating on a young orangutan. He suffered from a parasitic larva that needed to be surgically removed because it had caused an infection.



SOUTH AMERICA

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# CONTINENT OF DIVERSITY



The Amazon Basin in South America is one of the world's largest freshwater systems and comprises the biggest forest on earth. It's a biodiversity hotspot. Difficult accessibility and a low population density are the reasons why there are still intact wilderness areas existing there, which are still home to uncontacted peoples living in voluntary isolation.

■ **1968**  
*since then FZS has been supporting conservation projects in South America*

■ **4,000 m**  
*altitude difference: The South American FZS project areas extend from the Amazon lowlands up to the highlands of the Andes*

■ **89,000 km<sup>2</sup>**  
*is the size of the Peru programme area*

■ **4 Project Countries**

- <sup>1</sup> Brazil
- <sup>2</sup> Colombia
- <sup>3</sup> Guyana
- <sup>4</sup> Peru

■ **Programme Office**  
*Cusco is the home base of our Peruvian sister organisation AVISA*



## FROM THE FIELD

# PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE KANUKU MOUNTAINS, GUYANA

## Guyana – Small Country, Great Potential



Do you know where Guyana is? No, not French Guiana, and not Guinea! Surrounded by Venezuela, Brazil and Surinam, Guyana is the only English-speaking country in South America. At about 215,000 square kilometres, it is a sparsely populated, relatively small country (2/3 the size of Germany). Still, Guyana is known as the “Land of Giants” because it is the home of some very large animals, among them the giant anteater, giant otter, the world’s largest tarantula, South America’s biggest freshwater fish and the world’s largest eagle, the harpy.

There is another way in which Guyana is outperforming larger countries: Guyana is playing a leading role in conservation. About 80 percent of its total area is covered with intact forest and the deforestation rate is less than one percent annually. Large-scale clear cutting is illegal country-wide. All harvesting of wood must be carried out according to sustainable practices and on a selective basis. This puts Guyana and its neighbor Surinam in a class of their own internationally. Guyana’s “Low Carbon Development Strategy,” a green, low-emission development concept aspires to strike a balance between the sustainable development of natural resources and environmental conservation on the one hand, and economic growth on the other. Conservation areas play an important role in Guyana’s aspirations to achieve a green economy.

Although Guyana’s Kaieteur National Park, established in 1929, is one of the oldest on the continent, the country’s National Protected Area System is one of the newest. It was founded in 2011 at the same time as the Protected Areas Commission (PAC), the conservation area authority. Simultaneously, two new areas were placed under protection – the Kanuku Mountains in southern Guyana and Shell Beach on the coast.



## Situation on the Ground

At over 6,000 square kilometres, the Kanuku Mountains Conservation Area is not just really big, it encompasses almost the entire mountain range and is completely forested. It is surrounded by seasonally flooded savannahs. The Rupununi River winds its way north through Kanuku, where it empties into the massive Essequibo. Although the mountains are not very high at only 1,000 metres, the treed slopes, clear rivers and streams provide a home for a breathtaking 1,400 vertebrate species. This is comparable to the western Amazon, one of the most biodiverse places on earth.

The Kanuku Mountains border on Amerindian land and its indigenous communities. The rights of indigenous people in Guyana are securely anchored in the constitution and the communities have always drawn on the resources in the conservation areas. They hunt, gather, and fish there and also farm. That’s why Guyana’s conservation areas are classified as Category VI by the IUCN, i.e. managed resource conservation areas. This means that local communities can access resources in the conservation areas using traditional and sustainable practices. Mining and commercial farming and forestry are prohibited.

The pressures on Guyana’s conservation areas and the Kanuku Mountains are similar to those facing other South American





The Kaieteur Falls in Guyana are among the world's highest waterfalls.

countries. The overuse of natural resources, mining and poaching are the primary impacts. The threats facing Guyana are still relatively small, but they are increasing. That is why PAC and FZS are acting now to install the necessary protection measures and take precautions before the destruction of the environment commences on a larger scale.

FZS began its work in mid-2014 in Guyana with the goal of supporting the national conservation area system, particularly the Kanuku Mountains. A small, energetic team is assisting our partner PAC.

## Steps taken in 2016

In the two years since the start of the project, we have worked for and with PAC to formulate a strategic plan. This was approved in 2016 and points the way for the conservation areas for the next five years. An action plan for the Kanuku Mountains describes precisely what we want to accomplish there, what we know and how we plan to go forward.

In 2016, we helped hire the first four park rangers for Kanuku. We scouted suitable people in the surrounding communities and implemented a selection process. We are responsible for providing specialised training and support their everyday work. These rangers have, in the meantime, conducted hundreds of conversa-

tions with villagers in order to explain the regulations in the conservation area, particularly what is and is not permitted. The rangers also serve as contacts for villagers, who can approach them with problems and concerns. We held workshops in 21 communities in order to reach agreements on permissible hunting and fishing practices in the conservation area.

The FZS team also helps with ecosystem monitoring in Kanuku. Thirty camera traps have been installed and in the meantime we have film material from about 9,000 nights waiting to be assessed. Jaguars, tapirs, pumas and great anteaters regularly pass in front of the cameras, demonstrating that the area still supports a natural spectrum of wildlife.

## Looking Ahead

The infrastructure for the Kanuku Conservation Area is now being created, and beginning in 2018, construction on the offices and ranger posts and the purchase of equipment can really get going, thanks to funding from Germany's KfW Development Bank. Although the Kanuku Mountains will remain the focus of our work, we will continue to push forward with the administrative process to significantly increase the number of conservation areas in Guyana. Currently, 5.5 percent of the country's area is protected by conservation areas. In the context of the United Nations Biodiversity Convention, Guyana has committed to achieving 17 percent by 2020. We look forward to helping PAC reach this goal.

In many corners of the world, our conservation work involves preventing the loss of intact natural habitat. In Guyana things still look very good and appear secure. That's why it is all the more important to establish the foundation for professional, long-term protection.

## CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN SOUTH AMERICA 2016

| COUNTRY         | PROJECT   | WHAT IS IT ABOUT?  |
|-----------------|---|--|
| <b>BRAZIL</b>   | <p>Protection and Management of the Cantão Conservation Area</p> <p>Project area: 900 km<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Project start: 2013</p>   | <p>FZS funding supports our Brazilian partner organisation Associação Instituto Araguaia, running a small research and monitoring station in the Cantão Conservation Area.</p>   |
| <b>GUYANA</b>   | <p>Development and Management of the Kanuku Conservation Area</p> <p>Project area: 6,600 km<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Project start: 2014</p>  | <p>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>  |
| <b>COLOMBIA</b> | <p>Protection of Chiribiquete National Park and Vicinity</p> <p>Project area: 27,800 km<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Project start: 2016</p>  | <p>The project supports the conservation area authority, <i>Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia</i> (PNNC), in protecting the globally-significant Chiribiquete wildlife area in Colombia's Amazon lowlands.</p>  |
| <b>COLOMBIA</b> | <p>Supporting the Community Rangers of Cahuinari National Park</p> <p>Project area: 5,800 km<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Project start: 2014</p>   | <p>Support of the conservation area authority, <i>Parques Nacionales de Colombia</i>, in order to improve the protection and monitoring of Cahuinari National Park in the southeastern part of the country</p>   |
| <b>PERU</b>     | <p>Rainforest Conservation Programme Andes to Amazon</p> <p>Project area: 65,000 km<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Project start: 2002</p> <p>Giant Otter Protection</p> <p>Infrastructure and Material Support of the Park Authorities</p> <p>Environmental Education and Support for Schools in Matsigenka Villages</p> | <p>Southeastern 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.</p> <p>FZS's Peru programme in southeastern Peru now supports seven conservation areas encompassing 65,000 square kilometres. The programme also performs a number of other functions in the region, including training for park rangers, environmental education and public relations.</p> |
| <b>PERU</b>     | <p>Protection of the Yaguas Reserve</p> <p>Project area: 8,700 km<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Project start: 2015</p>  | <p>The protection of the Yaguas Reserve in northeastern Peru is a new FZS project in the region. The reserve is home to 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>   |



## CONSERVATION SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS IN 2016

Working with the nature conservation authority, Naturatins, a number of arrests were made during patrols to combat illegal fishing. As a consequence, it was quieter in the following season and no illegal fishing was observed.

Nine river dolphins that were stranded in a river due to extremely low water levels were saved.

The analysis of satellite images led to the discovery of illegal land conversion in the newly created buffer zone. The infractions were reported to conservation authorities and legal steps have been initiated.

Over 2,000 surveys were conducted in the indigenous communities bordering the Kanuku Mountain Conservation Area in order to get a sense of knowledge, behaviour and practices with respect to the use of natural resources in the villages. The results were disseminated in the 21 communities and will serve as the baseline for assessing future changes.

Training was conducted for 42 potential rangers.

FZS supported the members of the PAC (Protected Areas Commission) team in their work and helped with training.

FZS and PNNC signed a ten-year Memorandum of Understanding.

A multi-year action plan was developed in collaboration with the PNNC to effectively protect and manage the national park.

A study was prepared for the remote park on how to set up an effective communication system.

We helped the PNNC submit an application to have Chiribiquete National Park designated a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site.

We provided the indigenous communities living on the Caquetá River with financial and logistic support in carrying out river patrols. Among the funded purchases was a new outboard engine.

Controls were conducted of the nesting beaches of giant river turtles.

Data on the turtles were discussed at a workshop on location with the objective of reaching an agreement on resource exploitation.

Cooperation agreements were signed with the Ministry of Culture and the regional Association of Indigenous Peoples, FENAMAD, with the objective of improving the protection of indigenous groups living in isolation in the Madre de Dios region. We provided a control post with equipment and financing and paid the salaries of two rangers (agentes de protección). An informational and educational campaign is also underway that is designed to raise awareness and promote understanding with respect to indigenous groups that have not had contact with the outside world.

So-called community consultations were successfully completed in the buffer zone of Manu National Park. This was the basis for applying to UNESCO for an expansion of Manu Biosphere Reserve and an update of its borders.

A region-wide otter census resulted in a count of 119 animals in the entire Madre de Dios area. This is the lowest count in many years and grounds for great concern. It remains unclear whether this is a natural fluctuation in the population, or whether human impact is behind this development. We are collaborating on a new project of the Research and Conservation Institute of San Diego Zoo Global and WILDCRU of the University of Oxford to determine what is happening.

The FZS team played an important role in mitigating conflicts between farmers and spectacled bears in the Andes buffer zone of Manu National Park and helped raise acceptance of the animals. An important factor in diffusing the situation was the support of initiatives for alternative sources of income, such as growing the fruit-bearing Andean physalis and the creation of handiwork cooperatives.

FZS supported the conservation authority, SERNANP, to combat illegal gold mining inside Tambopata National Reserve.

Approximately 2.5 square kilometres of illegal mining camps have been shut down.

Reconnaissance flights showed that there has been no loss of forest or other perceptible illegal activities in Manu National Park.

We supported SERNANP in conducting environmental education campaigns with the indigenous Matsigenka communities deep in the interior of Manu National Park and for the first time in Matsigenka communities in the park's buffer zone.

With the financial backing of FZS, in June, 2016, two park rangers were hired. We also purchased a boat and diverse equipment.

There were a number of patrols by foot and boat as well as monitoring by aircraft. Five suction excavators on pontoons were discovered that are used for illegal gold mining. The Peruvian navy put the equipment out of commission and legal proceedings have been initiated against the perpetrators.



CORPORATE STRUCTURE  
AND FINANCIAL REPORT

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# A SECURE BASIS FOR CONSERVATION





Thanks to the generous support of private donors and members, and with the help of third-party funding, Frankfurt Zoological Society is in a strong financial position and makes a major contribution to international nature conservation.

■ **5,616 Sponsors**

*and patrons supported FZS in 2016.  
Among other things we received:*

■ **1.5 Million Euros**

*from donors, members and sponsors*

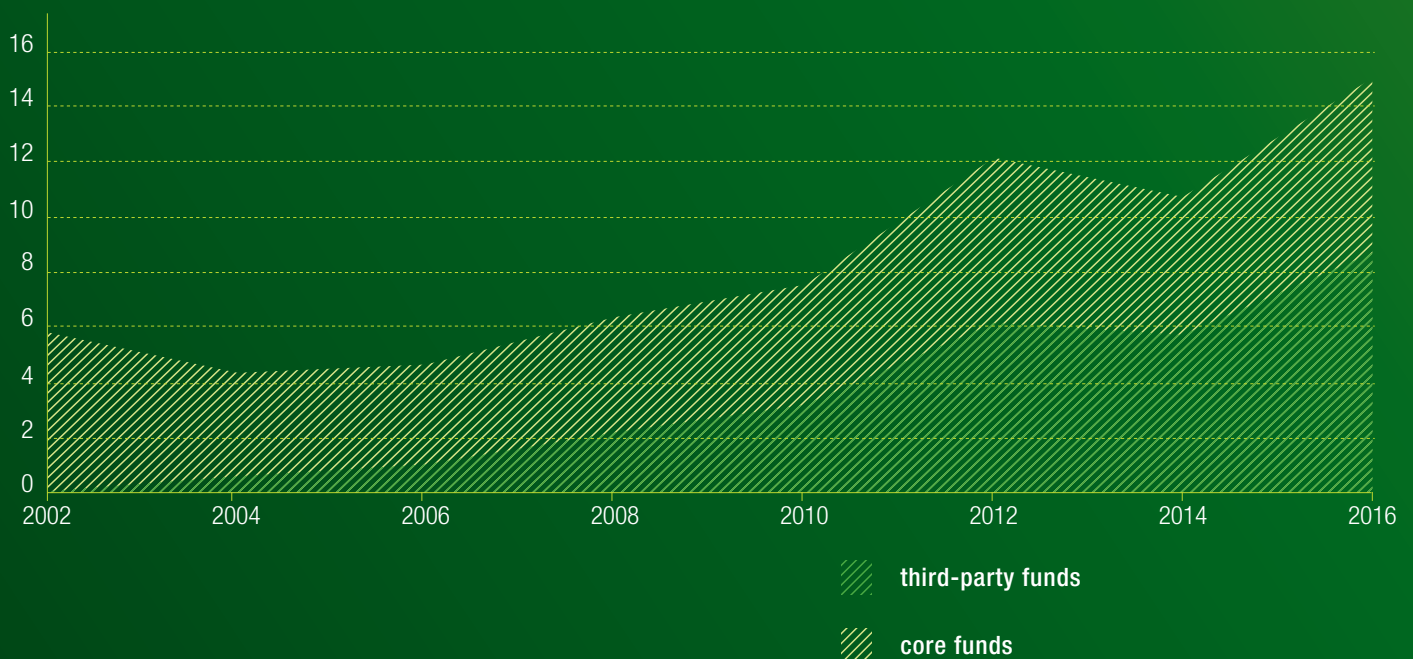
■ **8.7 Million Euros**

*from institutional and public donors*

■ **1.3 Million Euros**

*from the "Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt"  
Foundation*

**DEVELOPMENT OF FZS REVENUES FROM 2002 TO 2016** in Million Euro



# FZS CORPORATE STRUCTURE AND STRATEGY

## MISSION

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

## STRATEGY AND OBJECTIVES

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Wilderness protection is the most selfless and altruistic aspect of conservation work. FZS is a vocal supporter of wilderness areas. By wilderness we mean large, predominantly intact areas in which natural processes take place without human interference. Wilderness areas therefore play a fundamental role in the conservation of biodiversity. Wilderness areas represent important reference zones for our own actions. They are climate change buffers and they are particularly appealing for suitable types of eco-tourism which can help generate funds for their maintenance.

Efficiency and focus are especially important. Which is why FZS concentrates its efforts on specific ecosystems – large grasslands, forests, wetlands and mountains. Our main geographical focal points are East Africa, South America, Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe.

National parks and conservation areas, such as the Serengeti (Tanzania), Virunga (DR Congo), Manu (Peru) and Bukit Tigapuluh (Sumatra), are where most of our resources have been directed over the years.

We carry out a large proportion of our projects and programmes using our own staff, but we also support partner organisations in the respective countries. However, the success of the conservation work depends to a great extent on our local partners, the national park authorities or conservation area administrations. Good collaboration is based on trust and partnership and is therefore the basis of our conservation work in all our project countries.

What unites the committed and professional members of the FZS team is their passion for wildlife and wilderness. Our experience of practical conservation work in the different conservation areas and our practical approach are key aspects of our success. We enter into a long-term commitment in all of our projects because conservation requires time and patience.

## FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Zoologische Gesellschaft Frankfurt von 1858 e. V. (Frankfurt Zoological Society, FZS) is a registered non-profit-making society based in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. The origins of the Society go back to the work of Professor Bernhard Grzimek who first set up FZS as a support society for the zoo, and later gradually developed it into a nature conservation organisation. From the outset, the Society has been based at Frankfurt Zoo.

Because it promotes nature conservation and animal welfare, Frankfurt Zoological Society enjoys corporate tax exemption on the basis of the notice of exemption and the annex to the notice of exemption of the Frankfurt V Tax Office, tax no. 47 250 98191, of 11.02.2016 according to § 5 para 1 no. 9 of the Corporation Tax Law.

The **General Assembly** convenes once a year. It elects and approves the activities of the Board, decides on the annual financial statements and elects the auditor. The Society currently has 3,487 members, consisting of private individuals and institutions.

According to its statutes, **the Board** consists of up to eight individuals working on a voluntary basis. Board members are elected for three years and oversee the annual project-programme, the annual budget as presented by the Executive Director. Travel and hospitality expenses of Board members are reimbursed but neither conference nor meeting fees are paid. The Board appoints an Executive Director to manage the society. The biologist Dr. Christof Schenck has conducted the Society's business since the year 2000.

In 2016, Frankfurt Zoological Society employed a total of 323 staff members, 23 of whom are based at the headquarters in Frankfurt am Main.

The Society had 35 volunteers working as conservation ambassadors at the Frankfurt Zoo where they work to enlighten zoo visitors about FZS's conservation projects. In addition there are roughly 40 volunteers engaged in environmental outreach for the FZS Peru programme, providing information in schools about the diversity of the Amazon rain forest.

## THE FZS NETWORK

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FZS is supported by the "Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt" charitable foundation. This is a legally independent foundation under private law with charitable status. Established in 2001, the foundation started out as a special account of the same name which

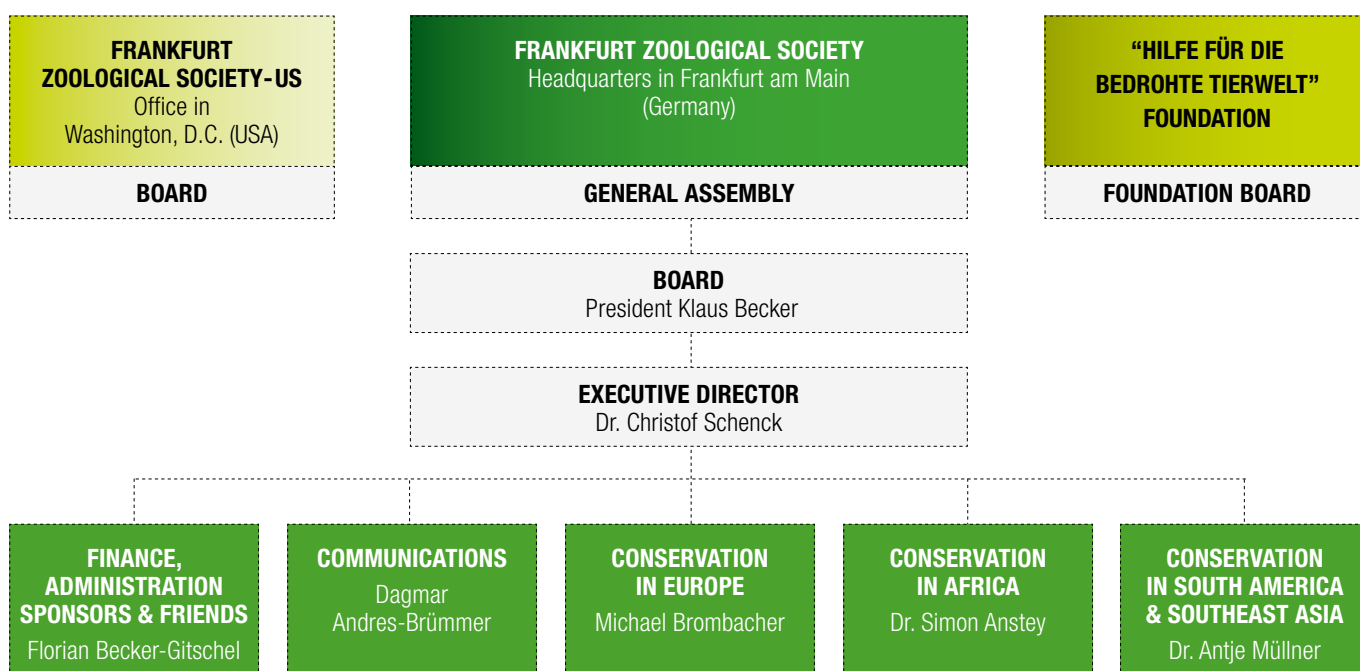


was established in 1961 by Bernhard Grzimek and into which the donations of many viewers of his television show "Ein Platz für Tiere" (A Place for Wildlife) were paid over many decades.

FZS has been supported in the United States since 2008 by the independent non-profit organisation **Frankfurt Zoological Society-US** (FZS-US). This "501(c) (3)" organisation is also exempt from tax and the donations from private and institutional American donors in support of FZS project work are eligible for tax relief. FZS-US is run by a separate Board consisting of eight voluntary members. Its President is the FZS Executive Director, Dr. Christof Schenck.

Since 2012 the organisation has been run by Executive Director, Dr. Peyton West, who is also a member of the Board.

In Peru, Frankfurt Zoological Society is represented by the non-profit association Ayuda para vida Silvestre Amenazada – Sociedad Zoológica de Francfort Perú (AVISA SZF Peru), and in Indonesia by Yayasan Konservasi Ekosistem Hutan Sumatera (KEHUS –FZS-Indonesia). It is also registered as a national non-profit organisation in other countries such as Ethiopia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Employees of Frankfurt Zoological Society are represented in some of the bodies of these organisations.



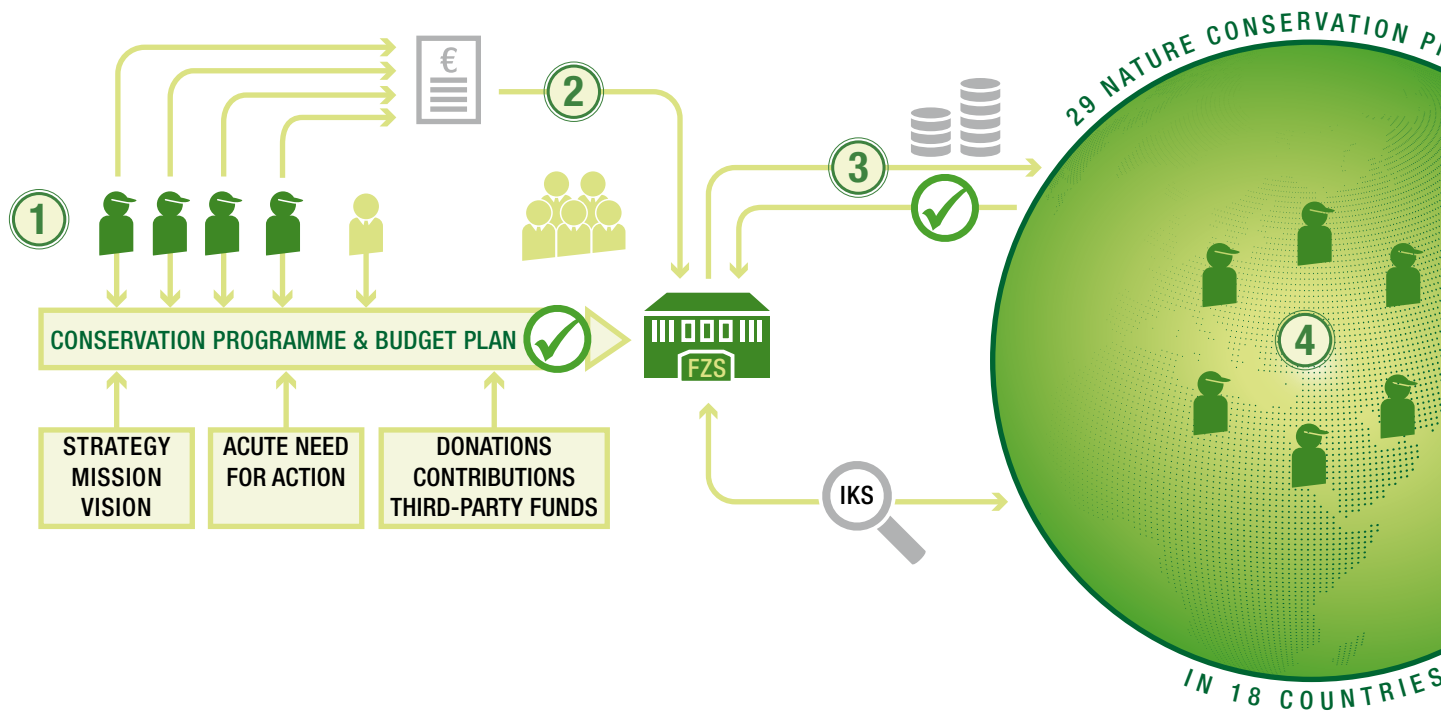
- HONORARY BOARD OF FZS-US 2016**
- Dr. Christof Schenck *(President)*
  - Prof. Dr. Andy Dobson *(Vice President)*
  - Dr. Peyton West *(Treasurer and executive Director)*
  - Dr. Kaush Arha *(until 6/2017)*
  - Matt Arnold
  - Curtis Ravenel
  - Jason Scott
  - Heather Zichal

- HONORARY BOARD OF FZS 2016**
- Klaus Becker *(President)*
  - Prof. Dr. Manfred Niekisch *(Vice President)*
  - Gerold Dieke
  - Dr. Thomas Kantenwein
  - Renate von Metzler
  - Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Volker Mosbrugger
  - Hans Joachim Suchan

- HONORARY FOUNDATION BOARD 2016**
- Gerhard Kittscher *(Chairman of the Board)*
  - Prof. Dr. Manfred Niekisch *(Vice Chairman)*
  - Klaus Becker
  - Hans Bernhardt
  - Dr. Jürgen Heraeus
  - Dr. Thomas Kantenwein
  - Dr. Rudolf Kriszeleit
  - Johann-Peter Krommer
  - Dr. Altfried M. Lütkenhaus
  - Dr. Manuela Rottmann

# TRANSPARENCY: PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION, CONTROLLING

Our work is based on the Society's statutes and above all on the long-term conservation strategy of Frankfurt Zoological Society. This, in turn, is based on the vision and mission and is the guiding principle behind the selection of new projects and the development of the annual conservation programme. This sets out all necessary measures and relevant budgets. As a result, the operative implementation of our conservation work can be re-presented in a simplified form. However, each project is unique and has its own country-specific requirements that cannot be taken into account in the representation.



1

The annual conservation programme is drawn up and budgeted by the project and programme managers in cooperation with the executive management. It is based on the long-term strategic planning of the FZS, as well as any acute challenges which may arise such as the dramatic rise in poaching or the sudden mass extinction of saiga antelopes. The money comes from the Society's own funds (donations, membership fees, distributions from foundations, etc.) and funding from public and institutional donors.

The Board decides the conservation programme and the related budget plan (including project investments), as well as the organisational resources.

2

The project managers and their teams submit applications to further public and institutional donors, to the extent required and possible. This is conducted all year round. Typically, the funds are earmarked and time-limited. The Society's own resources, however, can be used strategically and are often used to leverage additional funds for the project work from public and institutional donors.

3

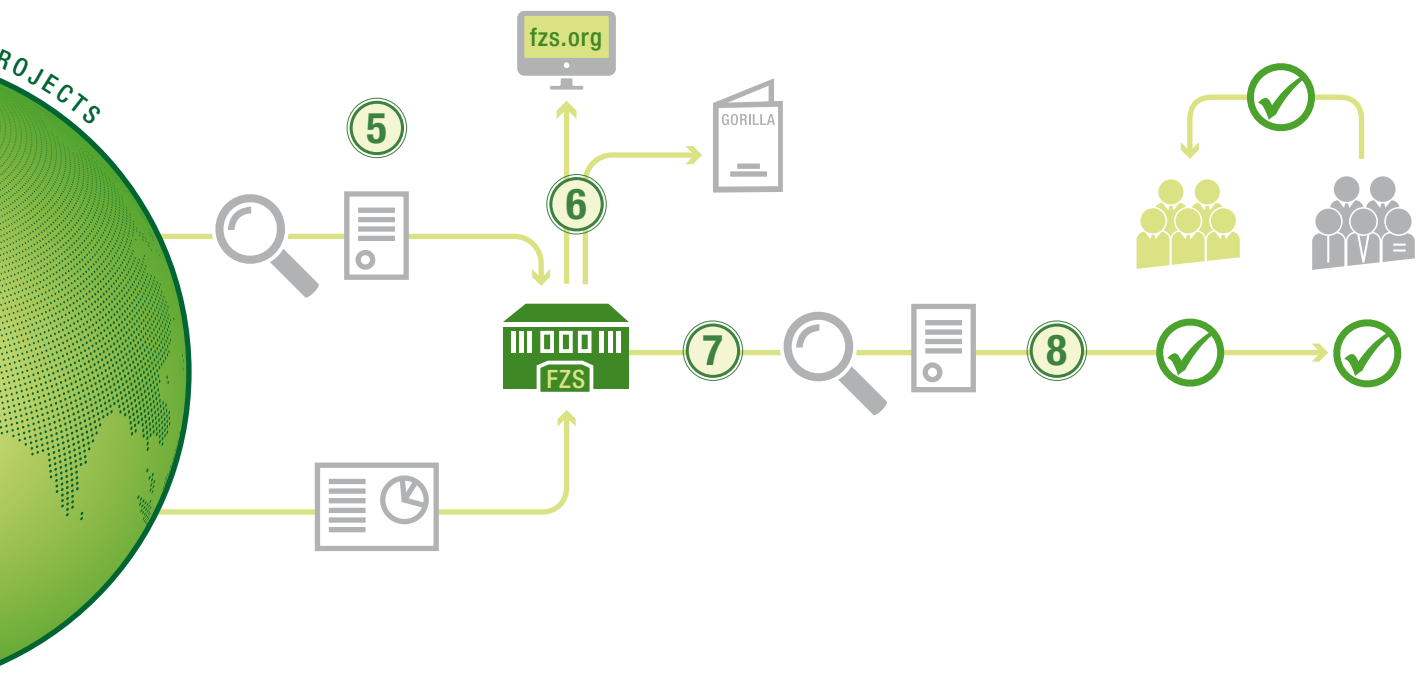
The projects in the different countries obtain the funds directly from the headquarters and then confirm receipt.

The expenditure of project funding is monitored through an internal control system (ICS) and overseen by project controlling to check for possible deviations to the budget. A financial software used in all FZS projects worldwide allows the financial processes to be reviewed and managed by the Frankfurt headquarters.

4

The project staff implement the FZS conservation programme in collaboration with governmental and other partners in the project countries.





5

There is an established reporting system for the projects and expenditure. This consists of reports on the Society's own resources and the often highly specific reporting required for public and institutional donors. Reports are generated on a regular basis, at least once per year. They are reviewed by experts from the individual projects.

Financial statements are drawn up in accordance with international and country-specific legislation (where possible) in all project countries. Independent auditors check the proper expenditure of funds in the priority countries every year.

The financial statements of all project countries are compiled in the FZS headquarters.

6

Information about the conservation work in the different countries is published online and in the Gorilla magazine.

7

The headquarters of the Frankfurt Zoological Society in Frankfurt and the combined financial statements of the project countries are scrutinised by an independent auditor.

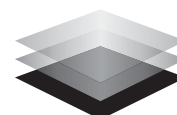
The complete financial statements, in conjunction with the auditor's opinion, document the charitable and proper expenditure of funds.

8

The financial statements are presented to the Board.

The Board and executive management account for the conservation work and the use of FZS funds at the General Assembly.

The General Assembly is responsible for discharging the Board.



Initiative  
Transparente  
Zivilgesellschaft

# FINANCIAL REPORT 2016





# FZS IN NUMBERS

Although donations to charitable organisations in Germany during 2016 were about five percent lower than last year, they remain relatively robust from a multi-year perspective. The trend in the number of donations is negative, but donors are making more frequent and higher individual contributions. It appears that overall competition for charitable donations has heightened. Donations for nature and environmental conservation have always played a marginal role in total revenues – donations for nature and environmental conservation represented only 2.4 percent.

FZS continues to maintain a very healthy, stable and diversified revenue structure. Revenues from other foundations have decreased somewhat, however, due to low interest rates and resulting poor earnings on interest.

For the past several years, we have been successful in leveraging our, for the most part, flexible core funds (for example, private donations and capital gains) to acquire third-party funds from large institutional granting agencies. This allows us to increase the budgets of a number of projects many times over and to significantly expand our work in individual countries. This makes possible large investments in infrastructure projects for conservation areas or for special interventions on specific threats (such as poaching). Once again in 2016, FZS received substantial government funding to support its projects. The goal is to continue to function as a reliable partner for such granting institutions and in this way ensure long-term financial backing for our conservation efforts. Major donors comprise another important revenue stream for FZS. Nature conservation requires long-term commitment, and we feel a high degree of responsibility for our work. That is why we will continue to emphasise sustainability and long-term financial security in our conservation work.

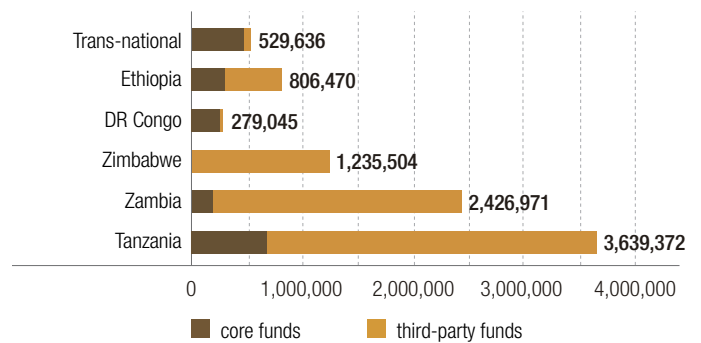
## OUR FIVE LARGEST PUBLIC DONORS IN 2016

- German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)
- German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)
- German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- KfW Development Bank
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

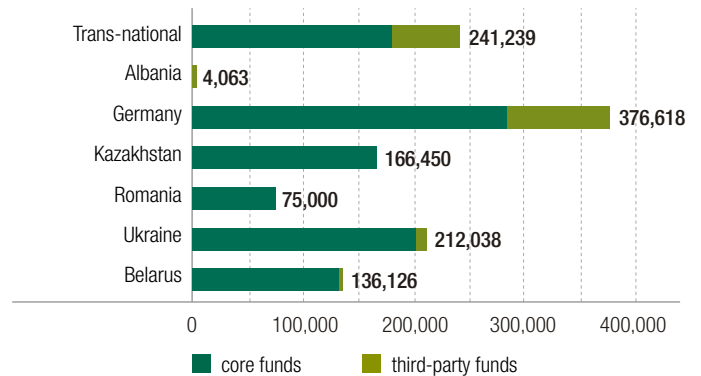
## SUPPORT FOR FZS CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN 2016

in Euro

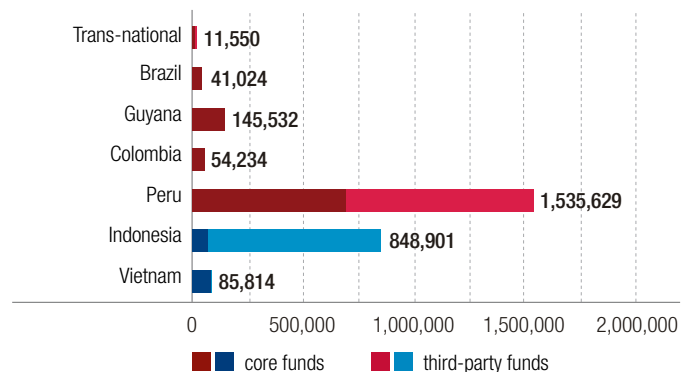
### AFRICA



### EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA



### SOUTH AMERICA & SOUTHEAST ASIA



| <b>ASSETS OF FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY (IN TEUR)</b> | <b>2016</b>   | <b>2015</b>   |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| <b>FIXED ASSETS</b>                                     |               |               |
| Intangible Assets                                       | 7             | 11            |
| Tangible Assets   | 1,909         | 1,938         |
| Financial Assets  | 11,198        | 11,705        |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                                   |               |               |
| Receivables and Other Assets                            | 3,549         | 3,177         |
| Liquid Assets   | 2,880         | 3,477         |
| <b>PREPAYMENTS AND ACCRUED INCOME</b>                   | <b>42</b>     | <b>44</b>     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>19,585</b> | <b>20,352</b> |

## ACCOUNTING AND VALUATION METHODS

The annual financial statements as per December 31st, 2016 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 statements were audited and approved by W+ST Wirtschaftsprüfung GmbH without reservations.

In 2016, 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 Wirtschaftsprüfung GmbH.

Additional independent, project-specific audits have been conducted for KfW-funded and GIZ-funded third party projects, e.g. in Tanzania, Zambia and Indonesia.

As of 2016, the same full double-entry accounting method is being used for all African FZS projects and for the Indonesian project as is used in the Frankfurt headquarters. This allows, for the first time, group consolidation of 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 are software licenses for the Frankfurt office. The value of these assets will decline over the course of the depreciation period.

#### Tangible Assets

Tangible assets amounted to EUR 1.91 million (previous year: EUR 1.94 million). This includes many smaller individual conservation land areas worth EUR 1.36 million which, following the internal realignment of nature conservation areas, are continuing to be reduced and transferred to other conservation organisations. This value remained unchanged in 2016, since no properties were sold. The value of directly held residential properties declined slightly from EUR 0.49 million to EUR 0.46 million last year. We sold an inherited property in Berlin for a very good price. Smaller properties generate high costs and create a great deal of work for FZS, which is why we try to divest ourselves of them as profitably as possible. Nevertheless, FZS has an ongoing interest in including larger contiguous residential properties in its investment portfolio with a view to further diversification.

#### Financial Assets

The financial assets consist of shareholdings and securities. The amount invested in the financial markets fell from EUR 11.71 million in 2015 to EUR 11.2 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. This also means that potential shareholdings and securities gains exceeding purchase costs do not affect the balance sheet. The profit and loss account is only impacted when the securities are sold – or when they are written off (when the value at sale is lower than the purchase value).



| <b>LIABILITIES OF FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY (IN TEUR)</b> | <b>2016</b>   | <b>2015</b>   |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| <b>EQUITY</b>  |               |               |
| Capital and Free Reserves                                    | 15,857        | 16,406        |
| <b>UNSPENT FUNDS</b>   | <b>0</b>      | <b>739</b>    |
| <b>PROVISIONS</b>  | <b>352</b>    | <b>343</b>    |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>   |               |               |
| Project Funds  | 3,161         | 2,611         |
| Project Liabilities  | 0             | 14            |
| Other Liabilities  | 215           | 239           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>19,585</b> | <b>20,352</b> |

## CURRENT ASSETS

### Receivables and Other Assets

Among our receivables and other assets, the primary items are receivables from project partners and third-party granting institutions. The value of these assets is currently EUR 2.89 million (2015: EUR 2.55 million). We were able to further reduce receivables from legacies and bequests to just EUR 0.05 million (2015: EUR 0.28 million). This level of receivables with respect to project partners is due mainly to funds unspent during the financial year, or FZS making advance payments for third-party granting agencies. These prepayments are repaid on a regular basis or at the conclusion of the funded project.

### Liquid Assets

The cash and bank balances of FZS in Frankfurt, Indonesia and the five African project regions amounted to EUR 2.9 million, of which EUR 1.6 million are assigned to the Frankfurt office. EUR 1.3 million are held in the project regions in foreign currency (0.7 million Euro of which in US dollar).

## PREPAYMENTS AND ACCRUED INCOME

Accrued income encompasses costs for the individual financial year, such as insurance costs and annual public transport tickets.

## LIABILITIES

### EQUITY

#### Capital and Free Reserves

The Society's assets of EUR 11.69 million remain unchanged as compared to last year. The free reserves decreased by the organisation's additional project costs (2015: EUR 4.72 million). As a consequence, our equity capital of EUR 16.4 million in 2015 decreased slightly to EUR 15.9 million.

#### UNSPENT FUNDS

In 2016, all donations and grants as well as unspent funds from previous years were spent on our projects as directed by our statute.

#### PROVISIONS

The provisions total roughly EUR 0.35 million (2015: EUR 0.34 million). Key among these are EUR 0.17 million for construction costs for houses and a solar system for FZS's Selous project in Tanzania.

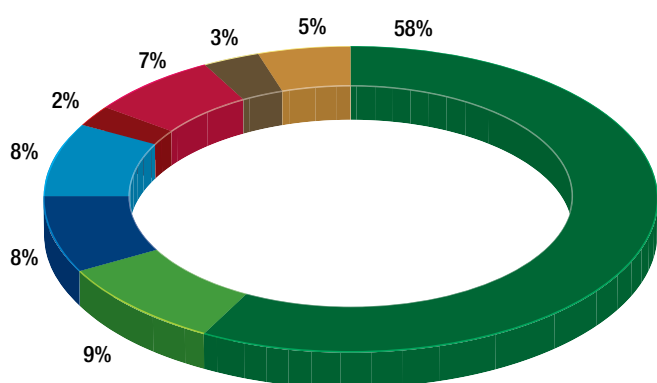
### LIABILITIES

#### Project Funds and Liabilities

Project liabilities vis-a-vis third-party granting organisations increased to EUR 3.2 million in 2016 (2015: EUR 2.6 million). The total is due to primarily third-party funds unspent during the 2016 fiscal year that must be separately accounted for at year's end. Frequently, third-party payments are made in December for project activities that will take place the following year. We were also able to reduced liabilities for international projects last year.

#### Other Liabilities

There are other liabilities amounting to EUR 0.22 million. These consist of liabilities in the form of personnel costs, taxes and usufruct, etc.



## REVENUES

FZS continues to have a very good, diversified revenue structure. Revenues from **third-parties** and supporting grants continue to be very robust. These revenues amounted to EUR 8.67 million (2015: EUR 9.30 million).

In 2016, the “Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt” Foundation contributed to FZS EUR 1.34 million at a free reserve ratio of 33.3 percent (2015: EUR 1.41 million at the same ratio). This distribution also includes the regular contribution of the Eleonore Beck Foundation of at least EUR 0.5 million.

Income from **legacies and bequests** has remained constant and at a high level in recent years. Such income amounted to EUR 1.24 million in 2016 (2015: EUR 1.18 million).

**Donations** were stable at EUR 1.19 million or slightly above last year's total (EUR 1.11 million). We did not receive any large contributions stemming from fines, as was the case last year. Still, we collected EUR 16,630 in 2016.

Income from **membership fees** remain stable at EUR 0.25 million. The number of members has decreased slightly from 3,496 to 3,487.

**Interest and income from securities** declined slightly due to low interest rates, but we were able to achieve a result of EUR 1.1 million through the realisation of capital gains within our asset management (2015: EUR 0.89 million).

**Other income** totaling EUR 0.46 million includes rental income from portfolio properties and other revenue.

Since 2014, the results have no longer been used to increase the reserves, but are posted as **unspent funds**. In 2016, they amounted to EUR 0.74 million. At the end of the fiscal year no unspent funds were recorded.

| REVENUES (IN MILLION EURO)                                 | 2016         | 2015         |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| ● Third-party Funding                                      | 8.67         | 9.30         |
| ● Bonuses from the Help for Threatened Wildlife Foundation | 1.34         | 1.41         |
| ● Bequests (including Real Estate)                         | 1.24         | 1.18         |
| ● Donation and Allocated Fines                             | 1.20         | 1.22         |
| ● Membership Fees  | 0.25         | 0.25         |
| ● Interest and Income from Securities                      | 1.10         | 0.89         |
| ● Other Income   | 0.46         | 0.86         |
| ● Balance of Unspent, not Earmarked Funds into 2017        | 0.74         | -0.41        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>15.00</b> | <b>14.71</b> |

## EXPENDITURES

Expenditures for our statutory conservation work, as well as for the management and administration of FZS amounted to EUR 15.6 million (2015: EUR 14.7 million). International project funding amounted to EUR 13.1 million (2015: EUR 12.4 million). Expenses totaling EUR 61,000 for **land management and maintenance** also impacted the balance.

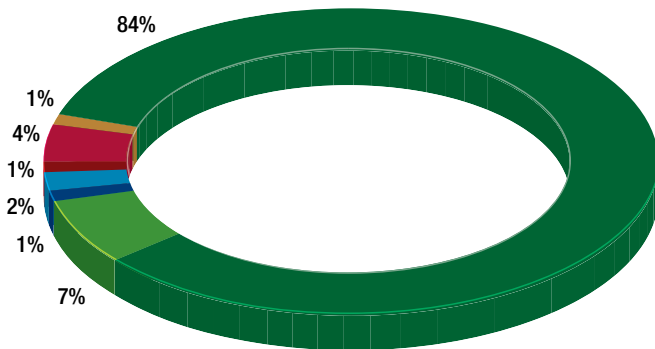
Expenditures in the area **sponsor services and fundraising**, including associated personnel costs, amounted to EUR 0.23 million last year (2015: EUR 0.3 million). **Communications and public relations** expenditures totaled EUR 0.34 million (2015: EUR 0.31 million).

FZS supported the **Frankfurt Zoo** and the collaborative **conservation ambassador** project with EUR 0.17 million (2015: EUR 0.12 million). This total includes a contribution from the FZS-founded Frankfurt Zoo Foundation of EUR 80,000.

**Asset management, securities and exchange rate losses, and other expenses** amounted to EUR 0.7 million at the end of 2016 (2015: EUR 0.7 million). Exceptional costs in the form of write-downs on securities and fixed assets in particular resulted in a total of EUR 0.19 million (2015: EUR 0.33 million).

**Depreciation and sundry expenses** amounted to EUR 0.33 million (2015: 0.29 million).





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

| EXPENDITURES (IN MILLION EURO)                                   | 2016         | 2015         |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| ● Project Funding  | 13.06        | 12.37        |
| ● Coordination of Conservation Programme, Frankfurt Headquarters | 1.05         | 0.91         |
| ● Support of Frankfurt Zoo/ Conservation Ambassadors             | 0.17         | 0.12         |
| ● Communications and Public Relations                            | 0.34         | 0.31         |
| ● Fundraising and Membership Service                             | 0.23         | 0.30         |
| ● Asset Management and Other expenses                            | 0.51         | 0.35         |
| ● Write-downs on Securities and Fixed Assets                     | 0.19         | 0.35         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>15.55</b> | <b>14.71</b> |

## 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 2016 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 31.12.16. 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 proce-

dures. 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, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017

W + ST  
WIRTSCHAFTSPRÜFUNG GMBH  
WIRTSCHAFTSPRÜFUNGSGESELLSCHAFT

(K.-R. Weigarden)  
vereidigter Buchprüfer

(F. Waldmann)  
Wirtschaftsprüfer

# “HILFE FÜR DIE BEDROHTE TIERWELT” FOUNDATION

The “Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt” Foundation was founded in 2001 from the assets of FZS. The Foundation’s untouchable capital stock amounts to EUR 45.6 million. The earnings support the work of FZS. In 2016, the Foundation contributed EUR 1.34 million to conservation projects.

Our foundation is a legally independent entity established under civil law. It is a recognised charitable organisation and non-taxable as per the latest notice of exemption issued on February 25th, 2015 by Tax Office III of the city of Frankfurt am Main. The Foundation goes all the way back to a special account of the same name that was used by Bernhard Grzimek since 1961 to collect donations in conjunction with his popular television show, “A Place for Wildlife” (Ein Platz für Tiere). Today, the Foundation supports FZS’s environmental conservation work with the yearly revenues generated by its endowment.

The Foundation is governed by a Foundation Board consisting of up to ten members for tenure of three years. FZS President, Klaus Becker, and FZS Vice President, Prof. Dr. Manfred Niekisch, are also members of the Foundation Board, and all members work in a voluntary capacity. The Board manages the assets, makes decisions about how revenues are spent and ensures that the Foundation is meeting its statutory commitments.

The “Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt” Foundation is a member of the Association of German Foundations (Bundesverband Deutscher Stiftungen).

Individuals who want to have a long-term impact by supporting the “Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt” Foundation can make a donation or create a named endowment or trust. This can be done during one’s lifetime or by testament

## ACCOUNTING AND VALUATION METHODS

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The December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 annual financial statements were conducted according to the provisions of section 264 et seq. of the German Commercial Code (HGB). The profit and loss ac-

count 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 Foundation's expense and income presentation.

## ASSETS

### FIXED ASSETS

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#### Tangible assets

In our portfolio of tangible assets, one piece of real estate from an estate was activated for the Foundation in 2016. We expect that in the context of settling the estate, the asset will be liquidated in 2017.

#### Financial assets

The financial assets consist of securities and property investments. 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 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 increase (EUR 0.9 million) in the reported financial assets can be attributed to a large donation in the context of a legacy.



| ASSETS (IN TEUR)   | 2016          | 2015          |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| <b>FIXED ASSETS</b>  |               |               |
| Tangible Assets  | 348           | 0             |
| Financial Assets   | 47,496        | 46,550        |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>  |               |               |
| Receivables and Other Assets                                     | 119           | 122           |
| Liquid Assets  | 1,998         | 1,487         |
| <b>BALANCE ITEMS<br/>for undisturbed fund earnings</b>           | 6,901         | 5,902         |
| <b>TRUST ASSETS<br/>"Stiftung Vogelschutz in Feuchtgebieten"</b> | 2,288         | 1,285         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>59,150</b> | <b>55,346</b> |

| LIABILITIES (IN TEUR)  | 2016          | 2015          |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| <b>FOUNDATION ASSETS</b>   |               |               |
| Foundation Capital   | 45,592        | 44,204        |
| Revenue Reserve  | 8,184         | 8,062         |
| Regrouping Result  | 360           | 440           |
| Operating Reserve  | 1,603         | 1,344         |
| <b>PROVISIONS</b>  | 1,108         | 11            |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>   | 15            | 0             |
| <b>TRUST ASSETS<br/>"Stiftung Vogelschutz in Feuchtgebieten"</b> | 2,288         | 1,285         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>59,150</b> | <b>55,346</b> |

## CURRENT ASSETS

### Other Assets

Receivables and other assets are comprised primarily of receivables from estates and bequests (EUR 35,000) and receivables from accrued interest (EUR 69,500).

### Liquid assets

Cash in hand and balances with banks amount to roughly EUR 2.0 million. This results from matured financial investments that 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. This increased further from EUR 5.9 million to EUR 6.9 million. At the next distribution by the special funds, this asset-item has to be reduced accordingly.

## TRUST ASSETS OF THE "STIFTUNG VOGELSCHUTZ IN FEUCHTGEBIETEN"

The capital of the "Stiftung Vogelschutz in Feuchtgebieten" trust foundation amounts to EUR 2.3 million (2015: EUR 1.3 million). The increase is attributable to an especially generous contribution by the donor. The trust foundation's development is an overall positive one.

## LIABILITIES

### FOUNDATION ASSETS

#### Foundation Capital

The foundation capital of EUR 44.2 million in 2015 increased by EUR 1.4 million to about EUR 45.6 million in 2016. Over one million of this came from just one inheritance that was donated to the Foundation capital.

#### Revenue Reserve

The revenue reserve was increased in 2016 by ten percent (EUR 0.12 million). The reserve has now risen to EUR 8.2 million and will safeguard the continuation of the purpose of the Foundation for years to come, even in difficult financial times.

#### Regrouping Result

Reserves from asset regrouping were reduced by EUR 80,000. This was done due to the need to depreciate securities according to the lower-of-cost-or-market principle.

#### Operating Reserve

The reserve rate of ten percent of the net result (2015: 33.3 percent) amounts to a carry forward of EUR 1.6 million (2015: EUR 1.3 million). This will be distributed next year for FZS nature conservation projects.

### PROVISIONS

The majority of earnings retained (EUR 1.1 million) were accumulated from legacies (inheritance pay-outs, obligatory shares, etc.).

## REVENUES

There are certain reductions in income from investments as a result of the difficult capital market and 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 fulfill 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 4.4 percent and is a reasonable result given the risk-return parameters in the current market environment. In calculating distribution-relevant results, only regular returns from the Special Fund and direct investments and regular realised gains were taken into account. For this reason, it is not possible to draw conclusions about the distribution of the Foundation based on this performance.

**Donations Account of the  
"Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt" Foundation**  
**IBAN: DE63 5005 0201 0000 3102 80**  
**BIC: HELADEF18522**

## EXPENDITURES

EUR 1,344,165 were distributed by the Foundation to Frankfurt Zoological Society for conservation work in 2016. This was performed after a maximum possible reserve ratio in the Foundation of 33.3 percent.

During the 2016 financial year, we explored the purchase of real estate in the Frankfurt area. Due to risk considerations, we decided not to purchase in 2017. The primary difference in expenditures as compared to last year are costs associated with carrying out due diligence and consulting (EUR 23,000).

The total expenditures for Foundation administration currently amount to approximately EUR 163,000 on the basis of higher special depreciation on securities and consulting costs. These correspond to approximately one percent of the total income of the Foundation and 0.3 percent of the Foundation balance sheet total. Naturally, this is only possible due to FZS actively managing its Foundation.

### 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 percent of the total investment volume.



# FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY-US

**Our American sister organization, FZS-US, plays an important role for expanding FZS's international profile as well as for gaining the support of American donors for our projects.**

2016 was an exciting year for FZS-US, with new opportunities as well as new challenges. The organization received its first legacy, added significant new funders, hosted a board trip to Tanzania, and welcomed new board member Curtis Ravenel. In 2016 FZS-US continued to support projects in Zimbabwe (Gonarezhou), Tanzania (Serengeti and Selous), Zambia (North Luangwa), Ethiopia (Guassa), Peru (Manu and Altos Purus), Brazil (Cantao), and Sumatra (Bukit Tigapuluh).

FZS-US continues to maintain its close link to FZS through the FZS-US board, of which FZS Director Dr. Christof Schenck is the President, and through the FZS Steering Committee of which Dr. Schenck and FZS-US Executive Director Dr. Peyton West are both members. Dr. West was also a member of the recruitment panel for the FZS Africa Program Director and visited FZS headquarters several times over the course of the year. In September, Dr. West and Dr. Schenck traveled together to the Yaguas Reserved Zone along with FZS South America Program Director Antje Muellner and Peru Program Director Hauke Hoops.

FZS-US continues to raise the visibility of FZS by hosting and participating in various events and meetings. In January 2016, North Luangwa Project Leader Ed Sayer visited and gave talks at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services headquarters and at the WWF-US office (at the invitation of the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group). FZS-US also hosted a dinner to introduce Ed Sayer to FZS-US board members and partners. Dr. West participated in events hosted by the Nature Conservancy, the International Conservation Caucus Foundation, the Clinton Global Initiative, the Natural Resources Defense Council, National Geographic, and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. She also represented FZS at the World Conservation Congress in Hawaii along with FZS vice president Professor Manfred Niekisch

## FINANCES

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FZS-US's income was just over \$3 million in 2016. This is a decrease from 2015, and resulted from a significant drop in funding from the Wyss Foundation for Serengeti and Selous. Lower than anticipated implementation of Wyss-funded project activities, due to challenges with the Tanzanian government and with project staffing, meant that the original grant was extended through the end of 2016 and no new funds were received.

FZS-US received its first legacy in the amount of \$240,000 from the estate of Charlotte Frank in early 2016. Ms. Frank had a passionate desire to protect elephants and was also working with Dr. West on strategies for increasing FZS-US's base of support. FZS-US will honor Ms. Frank by dedicating her legacy to the continuation of these efforts.

More than 95% of FZS-US spending went to projects, reflecting the organization's commitment to efficiency and low overhead. FZS-US operational expenses for 2016 were \$140,000, and were paid directly by FZS-US out of indirect income associated with grants for the second year in a row. Overall, FZS's investment in FZS-US has been recouped through indirect income, and a positive balance remains at FZS-US.

## PROSPECTS

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In 2016 Dr. West brought FZS-US board members Matt Arnold and Heather Zichal to visit FZS projects in Selous and Serengeti. Inspired by the challenges and opportunities posed by these great ecosystems, the FZS-US board had intended to launch a new and focused PR and fundraising strategy for 2017 concentrating on the Serengeti. However, a gap in Serengeti project leadership meant that this had to be postponed. Nevertheless, the US board remains invigorated and engaged, and is revisiting this strategy in 2017.

# PARTNERS AND DONORS

## 2016

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Abune Yoseph Community Conservation Council, ACCC</b> (Ethiopia)  | <b>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, GIZ-Zambia</b> (Zambia)       |
| <b>Administration of Bielaviežškaja Pušča National Park</b> (Belarus)  | <b>Deutscher Naturschutzring, DNR</b> (Germany)   |
| <b>Aveis Foundation</b> (Slowakia)   | <b>Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation, PHKA</b> (Indonesia) |
| <b>AHT Group AG</b> (Germany)  | <b>Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund</b> (USA)   |
| <b>African Wildlife Conservation Fund</b> (Zimbabwe)   | <b>Dr. Marschner Stiftung</b> (Germany)   |
| <b>Allianz Umweltstiftung</b> (Germany)  | <b>Eleonore-Beck-Stiftung</b> (Germany)   |
| <b>Amhara National Regional State: Bureau of Environment, Forest, Wildlife Protection and Development Authority, EFWPDA</b> (Ethiopia)   | <b>Elephant Crisis Fund</b> (USA)   |
| <b>APB-BirdLife Belarus</b> (Belarus)  | <b>Estate of Charlotte Frank</b> (USA)  |
| <b>Asociacion para la Conservacion de la Cuenca Amazonica, ACCA</b> (Peru)   | <b>Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, EWCA</b> (Ethiopia)                         |
| <b>Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan, ACBK</b> (Kazakhstan)   | <b>EuroNatur – Stiftung Europäisches Naturerbe</b> (Germany)                              |
| <b>Ayuda para Vida Silvestre Amenazada, AVISA</b> (Peru)   | <b>EUROPARC Deutschland</b> (Germany)   |
| <b>Baileys Roofing</b> (Zambia)  | <b>European Union EU</b>  |
| <b>Beit Trust</b> (UK)   | <b>Farm Africa</b> (UK)   |
| <b>Berggorilla und Regenwald Direkthilfe</b> (Germany)   | <b>Federación Nativa del Rio Madre de Dios y Afluentes FENAMAD</b> (Peru)                 |
| <b>BioFrankfurt e. V.</b> (Germany)  | <b>Förderverein Nationalpark Senne-Eggegebirge e. V.</b> (Germany)                        |
| <b>Bruno H. Schubert-Stiftung</b> (Germany)  | <b>Fondo de las Américas FONDAM</b> (Peru)  |
| <b>Bürgerbewegung Freunde des Spessarts e. V.</b> (Germany)  | <b>Fondo Nacional para Areas Naturales Protegidas por el Estado, PROFONANPE</b> (Peru)    |
| <b>Bukit Tigapuluh National Park</b> (Indonesia)   | <b>Frankfurt Zoological Society-U.S.</b> (USA)  |
| <b>Bundesamt für Naturschutz, BfN</b> (Germany)  | <b>Freundeskreis Nationalpark Hunsrück e. V.</b> (Germany)                                |
| <b>Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, Bau und Reaktorsicherheit, BMUB</b> (Germany)  | <b>Fundación Charles Darwin, FCD</b> (Ecuador)  |
| <b>Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung, BMZ</b> (Germany)   | <b>Fundación para la Conservación y el Desarrollo Sostenible</b> (Colombia)               |
| <b>Butler Conservation Fund</b> (USA)  | <b>Fundatia Conservation Carpathia, FCC</b> (Romania)                                     |
| <b>Celtic Freight</b> (Zambia)   | <b>German Embassy Lusaka</b> (Zambia)   |
| <b>Centro de Recursos y Educacion en la Selva, CREES</b> (Peru)  | <b>Gonarezhou Bushcamps</b> (Zimbabwe)  |
| <b>Charlotte und Werner Herrmann Stiftung</b> (Germany)  | <b>Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation</b> (USA)  |
| <b>Chilo Lodge</b> (Zimbabwe)  | <b>GreenViet, Danang</b> (Vietnam)  |
| <b>CI Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund</b> (USA)  | <b>Gregor Louisoder Umweltstiftung</b> (Germany)  |
| <b>Combating Poaching and the Illegal Wildlife Trade (Ivory, Rhino Horn) in Africa and Asia Project within the fund for cross-cutting political cooperation (Polifund)</b> (Germany) | <b>Grumeti Reserves and Grumeti Fund</b> (Tanzania)                                       |
| <b>Committee for Forestry and Wildlife, Ministry of Agriculture of Republic of Kazakhstan</b> (Kazakhstan)   | <b>Gunther Parlow Stiftung</b> (Germany)  |
| <b>Conservation Capital</b> (UK)   | <b>Guassa Community Conservation Council, GCCC</b> (Ethiopia)                             |
| <b>Conservation International Foundation</b> (USA)   | <b>Helaba Invest Kapitalanlagegesellschaft mbH</b> (Germany)                              |
| <b>Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals, CMS</b> (Germany)  | <b>Hellabrunn – Der Münchner Tierpark</b> (Germany)                                       |
| <b>Danang University</b> (Vietnam)   | <b>Imperial College London</b> (UK)   |
| <b>Department for the Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystems of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, KSDAE</b> (Indonesia)  | <b>Initiative Frankfurter Stiftungen e. V.</b> (Germany)                                  |
| <b>Department of Nature Conservation, DoNC</b> (Vietnam)   | <b>INDUFOR</b> (Finland)  |
| <b>Department of National Parks and Wildlife, DNPW</b> (Zambia)  | <b>Institut für Gemeinwohl GmbH</b> (Germany)   |
| <b>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, GIZ-Peru</b> (Peru)  | <b>Institut für Tierökologie und Naturbildung</b> (Germany)                               |
|  | <b>Institute Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature, ICCN</b> (DR Congo)             |
|  | <b>Instituto del Bien Común, IBC</b> (Peru)   |
|  | <b>International Crane Foundation</b> (USA)   |
|  | <b>International Elephant Project, IEP</b> (Australia)                                    |



|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>International Elephant Foundation, IEF</b> (USA)  | <b>PJ Fouche Safaris</b> (USA)   |
| <b>International Institute Winnipeg</b> (Canada)   | <b>Population, Health and Environment – Ethiopia Consortium</b> (Ethiopia)                 |
| <b>Internationale Klimaschutzinitiative IKI, BMUB</b> (Germany)  | <b>ProCar Zambia</b> (Zambia)  |
| <b>International Rhino Foundation</b> (USA)  | <b>Protected Areas Commission, PAC</b> (Guyana)  |
| <b>International Union for the Conservation of Nature, IUCN</b> (Switzerland)  | <b>Province People’s Committee (PPC) of the Gia Lai Province</b> (Vietnam)                 |
| <b>International Water Management Institute</b> (Ethiopia)   | <b>Remote Africa Safaris</b> (Zambia)  |
| <b>Jambi Province Conservation Authority</b> (Indonesia)   | <b>Sambia Hilfe</b> (Germany)  |
| <b>Jane Goodall Institute</b> (Tanzania)   | <b>Sarastro Förderstiftung</b> (Liechtenstein)   |
| <b>Jane Goodall Institute</b> (USA)  | <b>Save African Rhino Foundation</b> (Australia)   |
| <b>Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt</b> (Germany)  | <b>Save the Elephants</b> (Kenia)  |
| <b>Johanna Samel-Stiftung</b> (Germany)  | <b>Save the Rhino International</b> (UK)   |
| <b>Karl Kübel Stiftung</b> (Germany)   | <b>Save the Rhino Trust</b> (Zambia)   |
| <b>KfW Entwicklungsbank</b> (Germany)  | <b>Serengeti District</b> (Tanzania)   |
| <b>KfW Stiftung</b> (Germany)  | <b>Servicio Nacional de Areas Naturales Protegidas por el Estado, SERNANP</b> (Peru)       |
| <b>Landesbund für Vogelschutz in Bayern</b> (Germany)  | <b>Sheldon and Audrey Katz Foundation</b> (USA)  |
| <b>Linnemann-Stiftung</b> (Germany)  | <b>Sigrid I. Gramm de Berumen Stiftung</b> (Germany)                                       |
| <b>Lowveld Rhino Trust</b> (Zimbabwe)  | <b>South African National Parks</b> (South Africa)   |
| <b>Malilangwe Ltd.</b> (South Africa)  | <b>SOS Sahel</b> (Ethiopia)  |
| <b>Malilangwe Trust</b> (Zimbabwe)   | <b>Stiftung Artenschutz</b> (Germany)  |
| <b>Manfred-Hermesen-Stiftung</b> (Germany)   | <b>Stiftung Feuchtgebiete</b> (Germany)  |
| <b>Meatu District</b> (Tanzania)   | <b>Stiftung Flughafen Frankfurt/Main für die Region</b> (Germany)                          |
| <b>Ministerio de Cultura, Viceministerio de Interculturalidad</b> (Peru)   | <b>Stiftung Freunde des Tieres</b> (Germany)   |
| <b>Ministerio del Ambiente, MINAM</b> (Peru)   | <b>Stiftung KulturLandschaft Günzthal</b> (Germany)  |
| <b>Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan</b> (Kazakhstan)  | <b>Stiftung Naturlandschaften Brandenburg, SNLB</b> (Germany)                              |
| <b>Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources</b> (Ukraine)   | <b>Stiftung Temperatio</b> (Switzerland)   |
| <b>Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment</b> (Guyana)  | <b>Stiftung Vogelschutz in Feuchtgebieten</b> (Germany)                                    |
| <b>Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism</b> (Tanzania)  | <b>Stiftung Wolfgang Wüsthof</b> (Germany)   |
| <b>Mpika, Shiwa, Chama, Chipata, Chinsali and Isoka District Governments</b> (Zambia)                                    | <b>Stop Ivory</b> (UK)   |
| <b>Naturstiftung David</b> (Germany)   | <b>Sustainable Development of the Protected Area System of Ethiopia, SDPASE</b> (Ethiopia) |
| <b>Naturwald Akademie</b> (Germany)  | <b>Tanzania National Parks, TANAPA</b> (Tanzania)  |
| <b>Ngorongoro District</b> (Tanzania)  | <b>Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute, TAWIRI</b> (Tanzania)                             |
| <b>Nikon Germany</b> (Germany)   | <b>The European Nature Trust</b> (UK)  |
| <b>Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise</b> (Ethiopia)  | <b>The Management Board of Kon Ka Kinh National Park</b> (Vietnam)                         |
| <b>Oromia National Regional State: Agriculture and Rural Development Bureau, Bale Mountains National Park</b> (Ethiopia) | <b>The Orangutan Project, TOP</b> (Australia)  |
| <b>Professional Alliance for Development, PADET</b> (Ethiopia)   | <b>The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, RSPB</b> (UK)                            |
| <b>PanEco</b> (Switzerland)  | <b>The Wyss Foundation</b> (USA)   |
| <b>Panthera</b> (USA)  | <b>Tiergarten Nürnberg</b> (Germany)   |
| <b>Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia</b> (Colombia)   | <b>Tikki Hywood Trust</b> (Zimbabwe)   |
| <b>Paul G. Allen Family Foundation</b> (USA)   | <b>USAID</b> (USA)   |
| <b>Paul Tudor Jones</b> (USA)  | <b>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</b> (USA)  |
| <b>People’s Aid Coordinating Committee, PACCOM</b> (Vietnam)   | <b>Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds, USPB</b> (Ukraine)                       |
| <b>Perth Zoo</b> (Australia)   | <b>University of Minnesota</b> (USA)   |

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO (France)

Viet Nam Administration of Forestry (Vietnam)

Virunga Foundation (UK)

Virunga National Park (DR Congo)

Vulcan Inc. (USA)

Wolfgang und Ingrid Hensel Stiftung (Germany)

Wild Europe (UK)

WILD Programme (Zimbabwe)

Wildcat Foundation (USA)

Wildlife Conservation Network, WCN (USA)

Wildlife Conservation Research Unit, Oxford University (UK)

Wildlife Conservation Society (USA)

Wildlife Crime Prevention Project (Zambia)

Wildlife Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism/Tanzania Wildlife Authority, TAWA (Tanzania)

Working Dogs for Conservation (USA)

WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme (Austria)

WWF Deutschland (Germany)

WWF Indonesia (Indonesia)

WWF Peru (Peru)

WWF Tanzania (Tanzania)

WWF US (USA)

Yayasan Ekosistem Lestari, YEL (Indonesia)

Yayasan Konservasi Ekosistem Hutan Sumatera, KEHUS (Indonesia)

Zambia Wildlife Authority ZAWA/Department of National Parks and Wildlife, DNPW (Zambia)

Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, ZimParks (Zimbabwe)

Zoo Frankfurt (Germany)

Zoo Stiftung Berlin (Germany)

Zoological Society of London, ZSL (UK)

## OUR NETWORK – FZS INVOLVEMENT IN OTHER ORGANISATIONS

FZS has joined the “Initiative Transparente Zivilgesellschaft” founded by Transparency International Germany and provides transparent information about its organisational structure and the sources and use of its funds online.

FZS is also a member of the following associations and societies:

- **BioFrankfurt** – 16 research, educational and nature conservation institutions have joined forces to campaign for the conservation of biological diversity and to increase public awareness of its importance.
- **Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR)** – Association of German nature, animal and environmental protection organisations.
- **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** – Umbrella organisation of many international governmental and non-governmental organisations.
- **Charles Darwin Foundation**

The “Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt – Förderstiftung der Zoologischen Gesellschaft Frankfurt von 1858 e. V.” foundation is also a member of the Association of German Foundations (**Bundesverband Deutscher Stiftungen**).

Represented by the Executive Director, Board members, department heads or project leaders, FZS is present in the management boards or advisory bodies of the following organisations: Brandenburg Wilderness Foundation, Initiative Frankfurter Stiftungen, Eleonore-Beck-Foundation, Johanna-Samel-Foundation, Frankfurt Zoological Society-US, Bruno H. Schubert-Foundation, Polytechnische Gesellschaft, Fundatia Conservation Carpathia, Stiftung Vogelschutz in Feuchtgebieten, IUCN Otter Specialist Group, Yayasan Konservasi Ekosistem Hutan Sumatera KEHUS, Sociedad Zoológica de Frankfurt (Colombia), Gonarezhou Conservation Trust, Ayuda para Vida Silvestre Amenazada AVISA, and Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust PONT.



We would like to thank all members, donors, sponsors and friends of the Frankfurt Zoological Society for their generous support and their commitment on various levels to the conservation of the last wilderness areas on our planet.

## THANK YOU SO MUCH ...

### ... for your donations

*which we use promptly and directly in our conservation projects, e.g. to fund equipment or training for rangers.*

### ... for your sponsorships

*which give our projects the planning security they need and permit the ongoing protection of the habitats of elephants, gorillas, rhinos, orangutans, wild cats and giant otters.*

### ... for your membership fees

*which constitute the basis of the Frankfurt Zoological Society and the foundation of our global conservation projects.*

### ... for your family-event donations

*which you have collected for us at your birthday, wedding anniversary, retirement or wedding instead of gifts and flowers.*

### ... for bequests

*in which the FZS is named as the heir or beneficiary and which were paid out to us in the past year.*

### ... for your endowments

*which have added to the capital stock of our Help for Threatened Wildlife Foundation and which now help to support our conservation projects from the resulting earnings on a permanent basis.*

### ... for the civil penalties and fines

*which have reached us from courts, public and local prosecution services and lawyers.*



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