MISSION WILDERNESS

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY



FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY You will find the digital version of our annual report 2021 at fzs.org/missionwilderness21



Cover photo: Savanna meets tropical rainforest in Lomami National Park in DR Congo.

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An aquatic warbler in the Pripyat-Stokhid National Nature Park in Polesia, Ukraine





DEAR READERS AND FRIENDS OF FZS,

Last year, FZS was again supported by generous private donations and numerous sponsorship contributions. Both our loyal longtime members and those who have joined us more recently enable us to carry out important conservation projects around the world. We at FZS would like to express our sincere gratitude to you.

Project funding from major donors, foundations and public institutions grew in 2021. We are most grateful for this, too, and for the trust-based partnerships we enjoy with our supporters and patrons.

They play a major role in our successes all over the world. For example, in Polesia in Belarus, just under 10,000 hectares were added to the Almany Mire Nature Reserve; nature conservation in Kazakhstan received a boost in the form of the new Ulytau National Park; and in Germany, we were able to establish more wilderness areas through the Wilderness Fund. In Vietnam, the 413,500-hectare Kon Ha Nung region was designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2021, a goal toward which the Vietnamese FZS team had been working for many years. We are also proud of our teams' work in Peru: Almost no forest was destroyed in any of the protected areas in which we operate.

We are more than pleased with the overall positive developments recorded by FZS in a fiscal year that continued to be dominated by the pandemic.

To honor its commitment to wilderness and nature conservation, FZS is striving for further growth and actively supporting the "30 by 30" initiative. More than 100 countries have now signed onto this significant target of protecting 30% of land and ocean areas by 2030. The need for action here is urgent because many of the Earth's resources have already been exhausted and some planetary boundaries exceeded. Concerted and decisive action is required if humanity is to preserve the very basis of its existence. There must be no slackening in these efforts – our survival now and in the future depends on them.

A very big thank you for your support!

Yours sincerely,

las ML

Klaus Becker President of the Frankfurt Zoological Society

"We have the means to make a difference. So we need to act. Now."

FZS can look back calmly on the year 2021, the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. The organization has proven very resilient when it comes to crises: FZS neither had to lay off staff nor end projects, and no drastic cuts were necessary. On the contrary, we hired additional staff members and – thanks to generous support from third-party and private donors – even increased some of our conservation activities.

A conversation about the year 2021 with Executive Director Dr. Christof Schenck



FZS Executive Director Dr. Christof Schenck talking with Gilberte Mbangzieu.

"The issue of biodiversity is increasingly being pushed into the background."

Dr. Schenck, looking back, how was 2021 for FZS?

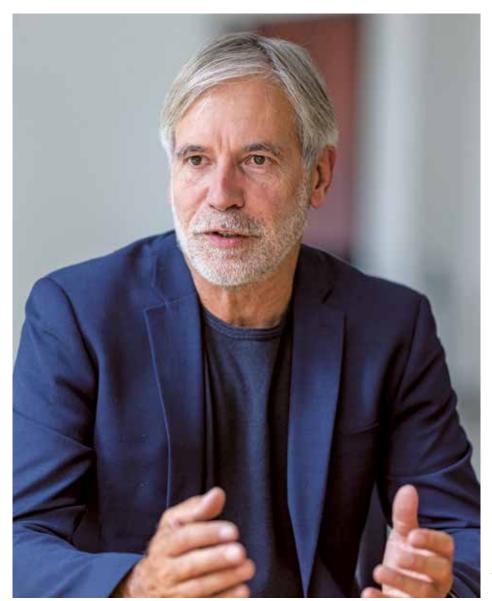
It was the second year of the pandemic, and we managed to navigate our way through the storm quite well. There was major economic disruption all around the world, so it's actually quite remarkable not only that our revenues didn't collapse but that we even succeeded in raising more funds for conservation than ever before. This demonstrates just how resilient our highly diversified sources of revenue are. From this strong position, we were able to provide emergency aid to protected areas that had seen sharp decreases in their funding - like those in Peru, for example. We could continue to expand our satellite monitoring program there and resume our work with the local communities. In Tanzania, we have been able to continue our vital work in the Serengeti National Park, in the Selous Game Reserve and Nyerere National Park. This includes aerial surveillance and ranger patrols made possible not only through funding from external donors but also through our own financial flexibility. We were even able to prefinance the funds that the German government had pledged for Tanzania.

So, FZS advanced the funds necessary to keep the grassroots work going?

Yes. We did this in Tanzania but also in the Lomami National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo. There, we pre-financed ranger salaries because government funding had been frozen.

Where does this money come from?

We had solid levels of income from donations in 2021, and FZS received some very large bequests last year. Third-party funding – that is, money we raise from other foundations or public donors – also remained strong. Our foundation has a permanent, untouchable capital stock, and the Frankfurt Zoological Society itself has a so-called "sinking fund." This is a pool of capital that we can draw upon to fund projects in addition to our normal annual budget. But because revenues were so strong, we only had to take half a million euros from it last year. This will give us greater leeway and security in the coming years.



"The world has become completely unpredictable. The crises we are currently seeing – war, coronavirus, climate change, loss of biodiversity – are unprecedented in their number and scale."

Was FZS able to resume normal project activities in 2021?

We were able to restart many of the activities that COVID-19 had put an end to the year before. What is important for us, however, is that we were actually able to expand our conservation program. And we did not have to lay off staff in any country. On the contrary, we are continuing to grow.

Securing permanent funding for protected areas is one of your top goals. Have you made any progress here?

Yes, indeed. The launch of the Legacy Landscapes Fund by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development was a major step in this direction. This is currently being used to fund two of our project areas: North Luangwa in Zambia and Gonarezhou in Zimbabwe. Fifteen million U.S. dollars are being distributed to each of these over the next 15 years. We've never had such a long-term commitment before. This is really quite special, especially with regard to the time frame involved.

Could more project areas benefit from this?

I hope so. In 2021, we prepared two more Legacy Landscapes Fund applications, this time for South America. These have been submitted in 2022. This means that we have already raised around 20 million U.S. dollars in private pledges from donors for the work. These private funds could then help leverage a further 40 million in public funding. This would be a massive step toward sustainable financing for two globally significant rainforest areas. Let's keep our fingers crossed for these two applications.

So, you are basically optimistic about the future?

Yes and no. The world has become completely unpredictable. The crises we are currently seeing - war, coronavirus, climate change, loss of biodiversity - are unprecedented in their number and scale in the last 30 years. This, of course, makes it difficult for us to calculate what the world will look like in 10 years, which means we have to remain very flexible. In addition, the issue of biodiversity is increasingly being pushed into the background. Politicians are not delivering on their promises, such as their pledge to significantly increase biodiversity funding here in Germany. The fact that the CBD, the Convention on Biological Diversity, one of the most important biodiversity conferences, has been repeatedly postponed also shows how the issue has slipped down the list of international priorities. And the war in Ukraine has cast a different light on everything. If international law can so easily be broken, what is the point of concluding climate agreements?

This all sounds like you think the Earth has a very bleak future.

Yes, I do, unfortunately. The future for our planet does indeed look rather bleak. These problems are made by people. That means solutions can and should be too. Of course, FZS cannot save the world single-handedly, but it has gradually been growing in size and influence in recent years. Is the plan for that to continue?

Absolutely. When we drew up our first strategic plan in 2001, we were still a small society, and we could all fit around one table. In 2010, we decided not to pursue growth as an "The future for our planet does indeed look rather bleak. These problems are made by people. That means solutions can and should be too."

LEGACY LANDSCAPES FUND GUARANTEEING LONG-TERM FINANCING

The Legacy Landscapes Fund (LLF), officially launched in May 2021, is a powerful new financing tool for protected areas.

Protected areas and wilderness remain the foundation for preserving biodiversity and are our best tools for mitigating climate change. However, effective management of these areas requires long-term commitment and funding.

The new foundation, established by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and KfW in cooperation with various nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and private donors, aims to provide a secure, long-term financial basis for protected areas of global significance. This is because the pandemic has once again shown how important it is for national parks, particularly in the tropics, to have secure long-term funding that is not dependent on whether tourism in the country is flourishing.

Two longstanding FZS project areas have been receiving LLF funding since 2021: North Luangwa National Park in Zambia and Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe. Each was selected to receive \$1 million per year for 15 years. The money is used for basic park operations and helps to fund the daily work. This includes ranger patrols, vehicle repairs, and so forth – the minimum necessary to keep a park running in tough times.

In order to provide this support, LLF draws funds from the federal government and from private donors and foundations. An NGO must be appointed as a local partner to ensure that the funds do not simply disappear into the government budgets of the respective countries. In North Luangwa and Gonarezhou, FZS is that NGO: We have been working with North Luangwa National Park since 1986 and with Gonarezhou National Park since 2007.

All protected areas funded as Legacy Landscapes sites work closely with communities in or outside their boundaries. In Gonarezhou, for example, about 75% of park employees come from villages near the national park. Nature conservation represents an important source of income for them. active goal. However, there was no intention to hold it back, either. A decade later, FZS had become a major player in international nature conservation, with around 1,300 employees from just over 20 countries. In 2021, FZS was able to invest 24.83 million euros in protected areas, supporting the work there or, in some cases, making it possible in the first place.

Does this mean that FZS is looking to exert even more influence?

Influence is perhaps not quite the right word. After all, FZS is not a lobby group and has no desire to become one. But yes, we want to achieve much more on the ground. The world is burning on many different fronts, and the window of opportunity to save anything is getting smaller and smaller. We have the financial and human resources to make a difference. So we need to act. Now. The donors who have joined us on this journey are very loyal and dependable, and our board of directors has our back. We are extremely grateful for this, as it means that FZS can continue to grow in a positive direction and to make a real difference when it comes to protecting nature.

OUR YEAR 2021 IN NUMBERS

31 Projects & Programs in 18 countries **24.83 Million Euros** invested in our conservation projects in 2021

3.16 Million Euros from donors, members

from donors, members and sponsors

1.38 Million Euros

provided by the "Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt" Foundation

16.31 Million Euros from institutional and public third-party donors

3.02 Million Euros from inheritances and legacies

7,091 Sponsors supported FZS in 2021

1,277 staff members

work for FZS and our affiliated national organizations worldwide. Most of them are local staff in the projects, employed by the respective FZS country organizations or collaborative joint ventures with the national parks.

Rangers using radio telemetry to search for rhinos in North Luangwa National Park, Zambia.

PROJECTS & PROGRAMS 2021

Conservation projects and programs managed by FZS itself and projects operated by other organizations that were supported by FZS



FZS AFRICA PROGRAM

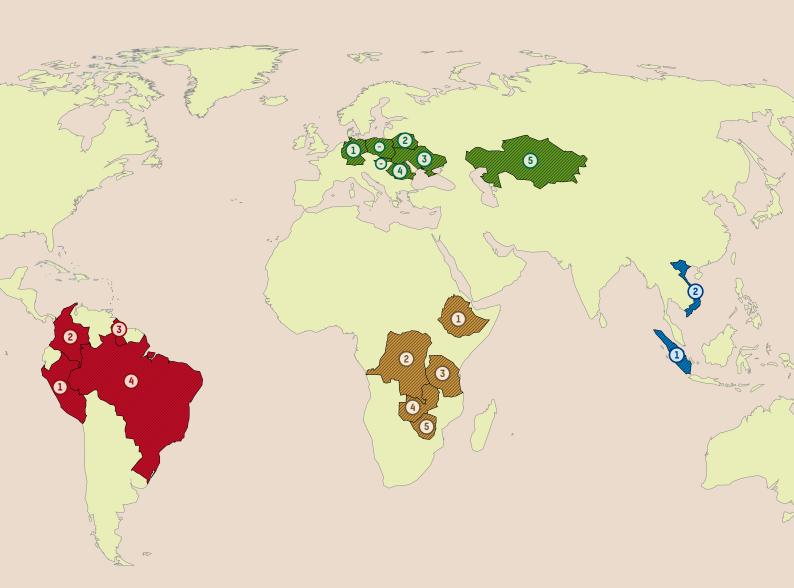
1 ETHIOPIA

- 梦 Bale Mountains Conservation Project
- 2 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
- Support for Virunga National Park
 Lomami Conservation Project
- 3 TANZANIA
- Serengeti National Park
- 🏈 Serengeti Ecosystem Management Project (SEMA)
- Mahale Ecosytem Project
- Vyerere-Selous Conservation Project
- (4) ZAMBIA
- North Luangwa Conservation Programme
 Nsumbu-Tanganyika Conservation Programme
- 5 ZIMBABWE
- 🏈 Gonarezhou Conservation Program

FZS EUROPE PROGRAM

European wilderness areas

 GERMANY Wilderness in Germany Srandenburg Wilderness Foundation 🏈 Hohe Schrecke Beech Forest Conservation Project Training programs for young conservationists 2 BELARUS 🔗 Preservation of the Białowieża-/Bielaviežskaja-Pušča primeval forest **3** UKRAINE 🧭 Protecting virgin forest in the Ukrainian Carpathians (4) ROMANIA Stablishment of a wilderness/forest reserve in Romania (5) KAZAKHSTAN Protecting the steppes and the saiga antelope in Kazakhstan TRANSNATIONAL PROJECTS Cross-border protection of old-growth forests in the Wolf Mountains (Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine) Wilderness without borders – new protected areas in Polesia Wilderness in Europe – casework for securing important



FZS SOUTH AMERICA PROGRAM

PERU

- Andes to Amazon Conservation Program
- 🤣 Support for the Bahuaja-Sonene-Tambopata Landscape
- 🥑 Support for the Manu Landscape
- Support for the Purus Landscape
- 🧭 Support for the Putumayo Landscape
- 2 COLOMBIA
- Protection of the Chiribiquete National Park and its surroundings
- GUYANA

🧭 Management of the Kanuku Mountains Protected Area

- 4 BRAZIL
- Protection and management of Cantão State Park

FZS SOUTHEAST ASIA PROGRAM

- INDONESIA (SUMATRA)
- 🗸 Bukit Tiga Puluh Landscape Conservation Program
- 1 VIETNAM
- Solution Forest Protection in the Highlands of Central Vietnam

Serengeti National Park, Tanzania

0

AFRICA

HANDS-ON SUPPORT FOR EXCEPTIONAL WILDERNESS AREAS

The pandemic affected our project work in Africa again in 2021 and impacted the financial situation in the protected areas in which we work. With tourism slow to recover in many of our project areas, parks continue to lack urgently needed income for operation and maintenance, staff salaries and meals and much more.



ZAMBIA

THE POSITIVE IMPACTS OF EFFECTIVE PARK PROTECTION

Despite many challenges, we made great progress in 2021 in our projects in Zambia, the Nsumbu Tanganyika Conservation Programme and the North Luangwa Conservation Programme.

One highlight in 2021 was the successful relocation of 200 African buffalo and 48 zebras to **Nsumbu National Park.** After careful preparation, the animals were transported 450 kilometers by truck from North Luangwa to Nsumbu – a historic milestone in the restoration of the Nsumbu-Mweru ecosystem. There, the animals will establish a new population and complete the ecosystem. When our project started in 2018, there were very few buffalo and no zebras left in Nsumbu due to poaching. It was only possible for the animals to return once the project had helped to improve security in the park.

Over the past four years, FZS has supported management of the protected areas and anti-poaching efforts in Nsumbu by ensuring sufficient numbers of well-trained and properly equipped rangers and a functioning park protection system. In 2021, rangers received further training, and new uniforms and equipment were provided for 86 rangers. The park's workshop maintained the rangers' cars, motorcycles and boats. An Aviat Husky A-1C aircraft was also purchased and will soon be used to conduct patrol flights over the 7,000-square-kilometer FZS project area. A canine unit was also introduced in Nsumbu in 2021. Shelters were built and equipped for handlers and their sniffer dogs, which were trained to detect ivory, bushmeat and other illegal wildlife products.

200 African buffalo and 48 zebras were reintroduced to Nsumbu National Park in 2021.

The new Wildlife Monitoring Unit carried out comprehensive monitoring in 2021. The data they collected reveals improvements in the distribution of most species and shows that wildlife populations in the areas studied are growing.

HIGHLIGHTS 2021

Nsumbu Tanganyika Conservation Programme

- Not a single elephant has been poached since 2018, and there were fewer cases of ungulate poaching in 2021 compared with previous years.
- In its first year of existence, the canine unit was instrumental in securing 15 arrests.
- De-snaring teams collected and disposed of 883 snare traps in Nsumbu National Park.



Park protection is also an important part of our work in **North Luangwa**. The black rhino population was once again successfully protected from poachers and continues to grow as a result. Sadly, there were nine cases of elephant poaching in the 22,000-square-kilometer North Luangwa ecosystem last year.

HIGHLIGHTS 2021

North Luangwa Conservation Programme

- The canine unit was involved in 276 traffic controls and roadblocks: The dogs searched 18,193 vehicles and were deployed 142 times in villages and in 1,101 house searches. The work of the canine team led to 129 arrests. The dogs also detected 100 weapons, which were confiscated by the authorities.
- Four hundred kilos of bushmeat were tracked down and confiscated by the authorities.
- Rangers conducted 898 foot patrols, covering a total of 33,601 kilometers.
- Eight new Community Conservation Banks (COCOBAs) were created, taking the total to 43 in North Luangwa.



North Luangwa National Park

ZAMBIA

In wilderness areas like North Luangwa, incidents between humans and wildlife occur frequently. In 2021, the North Luangwa Conservation Programme therefore continued helping people living in the immediate vicinity of the national park by offering them training and materials to implement suitable coexistence measures, especially with regard to elephants.

In November 2021, North Luangwa National Park in Zambia was selected by the Legacy Landscapes Fund to become one of the first sites to receive support and will now be given additional funding of \$1 million per year.



Sniffer dogs are crucial for effective law enforcement in North Luangwa.



Bull Kahya is one of 29 rhinos brought to Gonarezhou in 2021.

ZIMBABWE

RETURN OF THE RHINOS

Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe, an FZS project area since 2007, was also selected as a Legacy Landscape site and will receive annual funding of \$1 million per year for 15 years. The main highlight of last year, however, was the reintroduction of black rhinos to the national park, where they had been eradicated 27 years earlier.

Beginning in May 2021, the Gonarezhou Conservation Trust (GCT) brought a total of 29 black rhinos from three other populations in Zimbabwe to Gonarezhou after years of intensive preparation. Fifteen came from the Bubye Valley Conservancy, 10 from the Malilangwe Wildlife Reserve and four from the Savé Valley Conservancy. We are looking forward to watching this new black rhino population grow. A number of calves have already been born in Gonarezhou.

HIGHLIGHTS 2021

Gonarezhou Conservation Trust (GCT)

- The team has grown considerably in recent years. Currently, 307 people work for the GCT, 73% of whom come from communities within a 15-kilometer radius of the national park.
- The GCT is a major employer in the region, accounting for more than \$1 million in annual wages that flow into the economies of local communities.



NATURE CONSERVATION FOR HUMANS AND WILDLIFE



The FZS team moved into a new office in Arusha on December 1. At the suggestion of Dr. Ezekiel Dembe, FZS Country Director in Tanzania, the building was named for Dr. Markus Borner, who shaped FZS's Africa program over three decades. The Markus Borner Center was built on land owned by the Tanzania National Park Authority and underlines the close relationship between the two organizations that has existed for over 60 years.



FZS supports the Serengeti National Park by coordinating de-snaring teams that remove and destroy poachers' snare traps.

The German government laun-

ched a COVID-19 rescue package at the end of 2021 to provide 20 million euros in financial support to Serengeti National Park, the Selous Game Reserve and the new Nyerere National Park in Tanzania to maintain basic operations despite the lack of tourism revenue since 2020.

Serengeti National Park

Mahale

National Park

TANZANIA

Nyerere

National Park

Selous

Game Reserve

In 2021, we continued to focus on working with people who live around the Serengeti National Park. Humanwildlife conflict occurs frequently in the area, particularly along the northwestern boundary of the park. One of the best ways to mitigate this problem is through sound land use. Facilitated and coordinated by FZS, village land-use plans are drawn up in multistage processes involving all bodies of a community. These determine, for example, what land may be used for agricultural purposes, which areas are suitable for grazing livestock, and where to locate settlements, municipal areas or areas for economic development. It is also important to identify key corridors used by wildlife. The goal is for the villages to adjust the use of these corridors to avoid conflict situations, creating a win-win situation for the local population and the wildlife.

FZS provided key support to the Tanzania National Park Authority (TANAPA) in 2021 by increasing the number of de-snaring teams we coordinate. These teams have collected and disposed of thousands of snare traps in the Serengeti to date. To prevent livestock owners living on the edge of the national park from driving their livestock into the park to graze, we are supporting a new ranger unit (made up of two livestock teams) that uses motorcycles to patrol areas that are inaccessible by car.

Ecological monitoring has always been one of our team's core tasks in the Serengeti. One of the chief activities we support is the monitoring of the black rhino population in the Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. In Ngorongoro, FZS also helped set up a control center to gather data from rangers and coordinate patrols.



A COCOBA group meeting in the Mugumu region, west of Serengeti National Park.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE SERENGETI IN 2021

- Fifteen new COCOBA groups with a total of 415 members were created in nine villages in Loliondo. These cooperative banks allow people to take out microloans for small, conservationfriendly economic ventures.
- Zoning plans were developed with five villages; in the 11 villages where such plans already existed, 1,139 markers and 158 signs were erected to delineate the zones.
- In the Serengeti District, 6,153 Certificates of Customary Right of Occupancy were issued to people in four villages.
- In Loliondo, 459 people from seven pilot localities participated in training sessions on pasture land mapping.

- FZS aircraft were in the air for 716 hours to monitor the Serengeti.
- Our workshop repaired and maintained roughly 900 project and national park vehicles.
- Ninety-four students from Loliondo participated in environmental education activities for World Environment Day.
- Forty-three rhinos were fitted with trackers or ear tags.



Our workshops in Serengeti, Ngorongoro, Selous and Nyerere ensure ranger vehicles are well maintained.

The Greater Mahale Ecosystem is located on the shores of Lake Tanganyika on the western tip of Tanzania. At its center is the **Mahale Mountains National Park**. In the large forests of Mahale, species such as elephants, buffalo and chimpanzees are at home.

In the Mahale ecosystem, we are also promoting models for enabling the local people to improve their income in ecologically compatible ways, which serve to protect the national park and the local ecosystem.

In 2021, we provided logistical support to the national park in Mahale and ensured that vehicles and boats were operational. We provided gasoline, food and equipment, which allowed the rangers to carry out their regular patrols. The Village Game Scouts undertook their first joint patrols with the Uvinza District Rangers in the Tongwe West Conservation Area outside the national park. Our hope is that this will help to reduce illegal activities there.

Logistical support for our partners was also a top priority in 2021 in the **Selous Game Reserve** and the new **Nyerere National Park.** With our help, TANAPA was able to set up a control center at the Nyerere National Park headquarters in Matambwe and to

conduct ranger training. We organized a GIS training course, which, for the first time, enabled high-quality maps and analyzable databases to be generated during ranger patrols. A de-snaring team modeled on that in the Serengeti has been collecting snare traps in Nyerere since last year. FZS provided a vehicle for this purpose.

HIGHLIGHTS 2021

Mahale Ecosystem Project

- Fourteen new COCOBA groups were established in the Uvinza and Tanganyika districts in 2021.
- Beekeepers harvested 300 kilos of honey and 44 kilos of wax despite difficult weather conditions.
- A new ranger post was established in Tongwe West.



The FZS aircraft piloted by Captain Bernard Shayo conducts aerial patrols over Nyerere National Park almost daily.

The Tanzanian Wildlife Authority (TAWA) moved the headquarters of the Selous Game Reserve to the Miguruwe sector after the creation of Nyerere National Park. FZS also has a small base there, which allows us to continue offering support both to Selous and to the new national park. In 2021, we hired staff there, built housing for them and equipped a temporary workshop where the protected area's vehicles are repaired and maintained. A digital radio network is still under construction. FZS also developed a monitoring plan together with colleagues from TANAPA and TAWA. Furthermore, rhino monitoring teams are continuing to search for black rhinos in the vast area. So far, however, this search has unfortunately been unsuccessful.

HIGHLIGHTS 2021

Nyerere-Selous Conservation Project

- Two aircraft clocked over 300 flight hours throughout the year in support of patrols on the ground.
- One new patrol vehicle was purchased for Nyerere National Park and two for the Selous Game Reserve.
- A general management plan was drafted for the Selous Game Reserve.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

COLLABORATING TO IMPROVE PROTECTION FOR LOMAMI

In Lomami National Park, the co-management agreement between the Congolese National Park Authority (ICCN) and FZS took effect in September 2021. Since then, the park has been jointly managed by the two organizations, led by Dr. Terese Hart, who was named park director. Park rangers and all FZS and ICCN staff now work under one roof. This joint structure helps us to bring about positive change and improve park management; however, it also means that we bear more financial responsibility.

Our work in Lomami revolves primarily around park protection and monitoring but also includes cooperation with the people in the region. We are implementing models such as community forests and fishponds to improve food security. A new security and surveillance strategy was drafted in 2021 to articulate how we can improve surveillance of the protected area and to identify the capacity, infrastructure and equipment necessary for this.

2021 IN NUMBERS

Lomami Conservation Project

- A total of 192 patrols were conducted on land and 60 on rivers.
- Sixty-three illegal activities were uncovered.
- Illegal camps and snares were removed, and illegal bushmeat and weapons were confiscated.
- The 2020 elephant census showed that the elephant population (approx. 700) has been stable for four years. No dead elephants have been found in the last two years.



The southern part of Lomami National Park is a mosaic of savanna and rainforest.



FZS project leader Dr. Terese Hart was appointed park director of Lomami National Park last year.

ETHIOPIA

Bale Mountains National Park

ETHIOPIA

COOPERATING WITH THE COMMUNITIES AND BETTER PROTECTING THE PARK

Political unrest in the north of the country made working in Ethiopia in 2021 difficult. The FZS team had to leave the country for several weeks for their safety. We are pleased to report that, despite these constraints, we were able to make progress in protecting Bale Mountains National Park.

The fact that a working group headed by the park's management and in cooperation with the local authorities prevented the construction of a road through the park was a major success last year. The road will be routed outside the park instead of through it, which would disturb the fragile ecosystem. Moreover, the road will now benefit many more people.

As in other projects, the rangers in Bale are the eyes and ears of park management, and providing them with training is a high priority. National park rangers began using the SMART monitoring tool to plan patrols and collect data in 2021. The increased patrols and improved information flows are paying off, as park management decisions are now based on more accurate data. Above all, this work helps combat illegal activities in the park, such as settlement building or farming. Many more violations of the protected area ordinance are now being prosecuted thanks to close cooperation with the local judiciary.

In Bale Mountains National Park, ranger and staff housing was remodeled and renovated last year; new camps and a workshop were also built.

SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES OUTSIDE THE PARK

Bale Mountains Conservation Project

- Around 1,220 farmers and 170 agricultural agency staff participated in 10 Farmer Training Center sessions on cultivating new high-yield cereal, vegetable and fruit varieties.
- Eighty households received apple tree seedlings and instructions and equipment for growing them successfully.
- A total of 185 people participated in beekeeping courses and, thanks to modern equipment, have increased their annual yield from five to 15 kilos of honey per hive.
- Six hundred fifty cows were inseminated with the semen of high-yield cattle breeds, which produce more meat and milk than other breeds.
- About 1,250 fuel-efficient stoves were distributed to households. These stoves use much less firewood and were produced by a small local company.



Aoshiyo Habtemo, Mako Usman and Safiy Kadir manufacturing fuel-efficient stoves, which need significantly less firewood than standard stoves. The small company was founded on FZS's initiative.



Honey harvesting in the forests of the Bale Mountains does not interfere with their conservation, so FZS trains and supports local beekeepers.

"A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PARK HAS DEVELOPED"

Husien Indries has been involved with the Bale Mountains for more than 25 years; his primary focus is the link between conservation and human well-being. He has coordinated our community outreach program at Bale Mountains National Park since 2015.

What does community outreach involve? Husien Indries: Our program aims to improve living conditions in communities while ensuring better protection for the resources they use. This helps us reduce the pressure on the park's natural resources. The challenge is to balance the needs of the communities with those of conservation.

"We show people ways to build a sustainable livelihood outside the park."

How many people were involved in the program in 2021?

We reached more than 65,000 people living in 26 villages outside the Bale Mountains National Park.

And what does the work consist of in the villages?

We show people ways to build a sustainable livelihood outside the park. This takes the form of modern honey production, or increased grain yield based on an advanced composting system, for example. We offer training and workshops.

Can you give us an example of how the national park benefits from this?

We show people the benefits of growing coffee in their own homes, for instance. Until now, nobody really believed this could work, claiming that coffee could only be grown in the forest. That's why coffee bushes were planted illegally in the park, in the shade of the trees. We're now seeing a change, though, and coffee is increasingly being grown at home. This protects the sensitive Harenna Forest, a

humid tropical forest where the undergrowth was cleared for coffee cultivation.

Are you optimistic about Bale?

Yes. Over the years, the commitment of the local authorities and the close cooperation with the communities have brought about a sense of responsibility for the park. I really hope this will continue and that together we can all preserve the uniqueness of Bale Mountains National Park.



Husien Indries coordinates the Bale Mountains community outreach program.

Pripyat-Stokhid National Nature Park in the Ukrainian part of Polesia The start

True

11.92

EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA

CONSERVATION AREA IS WHAT COUNTS

BELARUS

Project area Polesia

UKRAINE

The escalation of the war in Ukraine on February 24, 2022, fundamentally changed large parts of our Europe program in ways we could scarcely have imagined in 2021, the year to which this report refers. By the end of 2021, tensions on the border between Russia and Ukraine were intensifying, causing us great concern and disrupting our project work. Total conservation area is what ultimately matters, and the successes are what make our work so valuable despite all the setbacks. We were able to record a great deal of progress in wilderness protection in Europe in 2021.

We were also successful in our efforts to prevent Europe's last natural landscapes from being bisected by major infrastructure projects, such as roads and shipping canals, and their ecological functionality from being permanently impaired.

BELARUS

Almany Mire

Nature Reserve

GREATER PROTECTION IN POLESIA

Two years after mass protests in Belarus, the country is still in the throes of a political crisis. International activities, such as the nomination of a transboundary World Heritage Site, have been discontinued. In addition, more than 500 Belarusian NGOs, including a meaningful number of nature conservation organizations, were shut down by the government last year. Nevertheless, we were able to press ahead with most of our planned activities in 2021, albeit under strong expanded by almost psychological pressure and amid great 10,000 hectares. uncertainty regarding the future.

> The absolute highlight of the year in terms of conservation work in Polesia was the expansion of the Almany Mire Nature Reserve in Belarus by almost 10,000 hectares. The Almany Mire, Europe's largest still largely intact percolation mire, is a valuable habitat for globally threatened species. It also plays

a significant role as a carbon sink and helps maintain the water balance of the Pripyat River, the heart of Polesia. Together with protected areas in neighboring Ukraine, Almany forms part of the largest floodplain in the region.

In the Ukrainian part of Polesia, a total of 640 hectares consisting mostly of valuable forest were officially protected in 2021. Overall, we were able to reinforce the protected areas in the Ukrainian part of Polesia, in part through the purchase of new equipment, such as

GPS devices, office equipment, weather stations and motorcycles. At the turn of the year, Pushcha Radzivila, which is directly adjacent to Almany and covers approximately 24,000 hectares, was also designated a national park.

Białowieża: More than 3,000 hectares of mires have now been rewetted.

Biodiversity monitoring





A Daubenton's bat (Myotis daubentonii) in Polesia

Once protected zones have been created in our project areas, our policy is to let nature take its course and keep human intervention to a minimum. Sometimes, however, it makes sense to jump-start the wilderness development. This applies, for example, to mires that have been drained and would not regenerate on their own. In the Białowieża primeval forest in Belarus, there are several such mires, which are crucial for a functioning forest ecosystem: Only if a natural water balance can be reestablished there and water reservoirs, which act like sponges, can develop will the large, valuable natural forest survive in the long term. Despite ongoing political difficulties in Belarus, we were able to continue the restoration work: More than 3,000 hectares of mires have now been rewetted. However, this is only the beginning, as many other areas, especially in the Polish parts of Białowieża, are still to be renaturalized.

Tatiana Kuzmenko from our partner USPB localizing bats, carrying a transmitter.

Three hundred camera traps were deployed on 600,000 hectares of protected areas in Belarus and Ukraine, including the Chernobyl exclusion zone. Data from these camera traps is being used to determine the size and movement patterns of wildlife populations and to derive measures for their protection. Since 2019, we have also been using acoustic monitoring to detect bats, birds, grasshoppers, and mammals. In 2021, acoustic recorders at 180 sites in Polesia produced millions of recordings. Thanks to an algorithm developed by our project partner, the British Trust for Ornithology, hundreds of thousands of recordings have already been attributed to their respective species groups, and 16 bat species have been identified.



At night, bats are caught with nets. Within minutes, they are identified, examined, marked and released.

No EU support for E40 waterway



The fact that construction of the E40 waterway, which would cut through the unique Polesia wetlands, has still not started can be considered a great success for us. The governments of Poland, Belarus and Ukraine have not yet been able to raise sufficient funding for the project, and there is now mounting national and international opposition to it. At the end of 2021, the European Commission published a strategy for infrastructure development in the EU, which stated that the EU has no intention to support construction of the E40. Another positive development is that, contrary to earlier plans, the E40 would not pass through the Chernobyl exclusion zone. The construction work for this would pose an acute danger to the people in the region, as it would stir

up radioactively contaminated sediments. The Ukrainian government is trying to have development of the Ukrainian section of the Dnieper River, which would also be part of the E40 waterway, included in the EU strategy. However, FZS and its local partner organizations will continue to do their utmost to ensure that the waterway receives no EU backing.



www.savepolesia.org



UKRAINE

EQUIPMENT FOR PROTECTED AREAS IN THE CARPATHIANS

In 2021, we were finally able to procure large quantities of much-needed equipment and distribute it to our partners in 13 major protected areas in the Ukrainian Carpathians. Three national parks in the Slovak and Polish Carpathians also received new wildlife monitoring equipment, which will allow us to conduct transboundary research into the behavior of large mammals.

Protected areas in the Ukrainian Carpathians again faced a variety of problems in 2021, most notably as the result of chronic underfunding. Both FZS projects in the Ukrainian Carpathians aim to increase the stability of the protected areas and the effectiveness of conservation measures.

Around 14 million euros have been provided for eight protected areas since 2016 as part of a bilateral project between the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Ukrainian government. 2021 was characterized by highly effective cooperation between the project team and the relevant Ukrainian ministry, making it the most successful project year to date. A major achievement was the procurement of 41 off-road vehicles and 23 motorcycles for the protected areas. We were also able to dispense more than 700 ranger uniforms and a large amount of IT equipment to the parks. Overall, we carried out significantly more conservation work in the project areas last year and at a much more professional level than in earlier years. The project's usefulness has become much clearer and more tangible, which has noticeably raised motivation levels among all involved.

FZS is also supporting five other protected areas in the Ukrainian Carpathians in a third-party funded project with a budget of two million euros, provided by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment. In this project, too, there was significant progress in 2021, with initial steps taken toward adding more than 58,000 hectares to existing protected areas. Biodiversity monitoring has also been considerably expanded in the form of large-scale camera trap monitoring of bears, wolves and lynx, for example.

By the end of the year, there were already signs of the situation worsening in Ukraine, and the deployment of large Russian army units began to affect the work, especially the planning for 2022. Nearly one million euros worth of supplies – including 41 all-terrain vehicles, more than 700 ranger uniforms, computers and IT equipment, camera traps for scientific monitoring and much more – were distributed to 13 large protected areas in the Carpathians in 2021.





Mountains

ROMANIA

TREES, BEAVERS AND BISONS

Our project partner in Romania, Foundation Conservation Carpathia (FCC), is making every effort to preserve large areas of forest in the Carpathians and to replant some cleared areas to prevent landslides. In 2021, the foundation purchased 1,400 hectares of land, which is now strictly protected. This means that the foundation now directly owns over 27,000 hectares of land. In 2021, FCC restored an additional 80 acres of cleared land and planted nearly 300,000 trees. The foundation also protects other large areas of Carpathian forest, representing about 200,000 hectares of nature conservation areas.

FCC is also working hard to establish a new bison population in the Făgăraş Mountains. The first eight bison were released into the wild in the forests there in 2020, and a further 17 animals followed in 2021. The reintroduction of the bison is a complete success – as witnessed by the birth of the second calf out of captivity last year. Another species that can significantly shape ecosystems and that plays an important role in the species assemblage is the beaver. It, too, was eradicated there over 100 years ago. After two years of research and preparation, the first beavers were reintroduced to this region in 2021. A total of 90 beavers will find new homes in the Dâmbovița, Argeșel and Târgului rivers over the next three years.



In 2021, Foundation Conservation Carpathia restored 80 hectares of deforested areas by planting almost 300,000 trees.

KAZAKHSTAN

MORE SAIGAS AND FEWER ROADS

There is also good news from our Altyn Dala project area in Kazakhstan. The 2021 saiga antelope count yielded very promising results: The Betpak-Dala population currently stands at around 285,000 and has thus returned to roughly the size it was before a mass mortality event in 2015. The former second-largest population west of the Ural River has recovered to over 540,000 animals, making it the largest European population of this distinctive antelope species. And even in the barren and inhospitable Ustyurt region, where the saiga population had been decimated due to poaching, numbers have increased tenfold in the past six years to around 12,000 animals.

In addition, the establishment of the 59,000-hectare Ulytau National Park in 2021 provided a significant boost to wilderness conservation in Altyn Dala as a whole. This is just one of many milestones in the more than 15-year history of the project in Altyn Dala. Over two million hectares have been placed under protection during this time, either by designating new protected areas or by expanding existing ones. An equally large area was given special protection status to preserve corridors for the seasonal migration of saigas. These represent almost inconceivable dimensions and truly remarkable achievements for nature conservation in Europe.

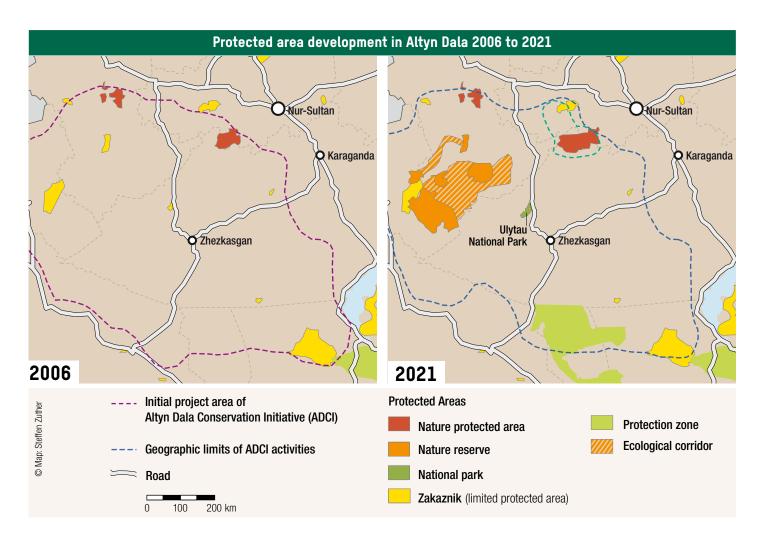


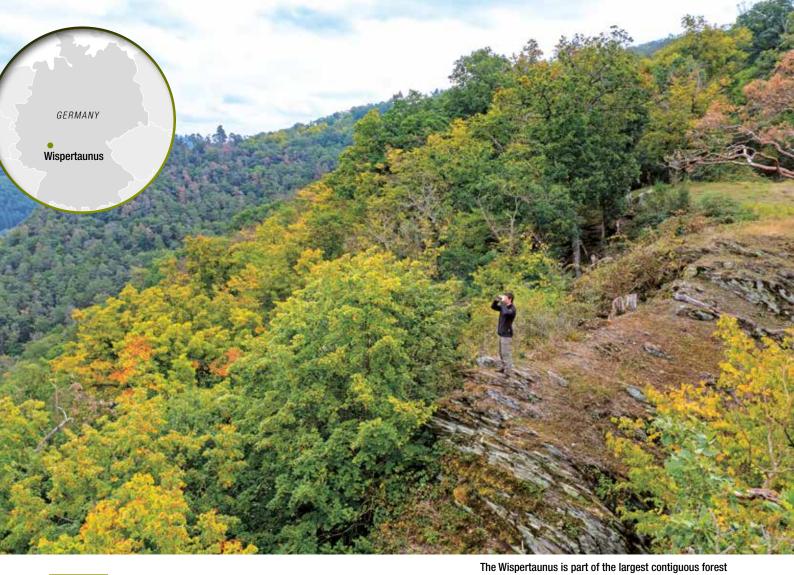


The census in spring 2021 showed the largest saiga population in Kazakhstan in 30 years, with around 845,000 animals. By the 2022 census, the population had grown to over one million.

However, we are also working to stop an infrastructure project in Kazakhstan with great destructive potential. The government planned to build a paved road – the Center West Road – through the middle of one of the most important migration areas for the saiga antelope. Data on saiga migration collected by FZS and its local project partners in recent years shows that roads can fragment and diminish the size of migration areas in the long run. The animals cross gravel tracks without any problems, but they turn back when confronted with sealed

roads and never get accustomed to these obstacles, even after many years. The Kazakh government showed a surprising willingness to talk about this issue in 2020 and examined the alternative routes proposed by FZS and its project partners. Then, at the end of 2021, the government decided to put the project on hold indefinitely – a great success for our campaign against Center West Road!





GERMANY

MORE WILDERNESS AREA

Securing new wilderness land presents a variety of challenges, yet we were able to post a number of small successes in 2021 and raise public awareness of the importance of wilderness. FZS coordinates the activities of 20 nature conservation organizations in the Wilderness in Germany initiative. As part of our lobbying during 2021, a year in which numerous key elections were held in Germany, we jointly launched the Agenda for Wilderness, which identifies which levers political departments will have to pull to bring Germany closer to meeting its 2% wilderness target. Wilderness was a core demand of 35 conservation organizations in the 2021 federal election and even found its way into the coalition agreement – although not to the extent we demanded.

In 2020, the federal government raised its Wilderness Fund to 20 million euros annually to purchase land for wilderness development or to acquire the rights to use it. Thanks to a grant from the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), FZS is able to provide expert assistance in selecting and identifying areas to purchase with Wilderness Fund resources and in bringing together buyers and sellers. In 2021, the Müritz National Park was expanded with financial support from the Wilderness Fund: The Stiftung Umwelt- und Naturschutz Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Environmental and Nature Conservation Foundation of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania) acquired a

in Hesse, Germany.



Nico Eidenmüller, forest protection specialist at FZS, and district forester Holger Hain (left) discussing plans for a natural forest network in the Wispertaunus.

roughly 3.5-hectare parcel of land from private owners in order to take it out of commercial use. The German Wildlife Foundation acquired a 471-hectare area of moorland in the Aschhorn Mire near Stade – including the peat-cutting rights in 74 hectares. There, the use of peat is to be stopped several years before the original date set for discontinuation.

FZS is also campaigning for a large, contiguous wilderness area in the Wispertaunus region of Hesse. Following a preliminary study, we put forward a large-scale nature conservation project to the BfN in coor-

dination with the state of Hesse. The goal is to add 1,000 hectares to the existing natural forests to create a large natural forest network of about 2,800 hectares. If funding is approved, the project is expected to start in 2022.

FZS also continues to promote wilderness development in Brandenburg. The primary goal of the Brandenburg Wilderness Foundation (SNLB) is to secure and expand wilderness areas in four former military training grounds. SNLB now manages 13,700 hectares of wilderness areas.

More wilderness in Germany – Piece by piece

In 2021, FZS and its wilderness partners continued their efforts to meet the federal government's 2% wilderness goal. Stephanie Kulak, the project manager supporting the federal government's Wilderness Fund, talks about the successes so far.

Ms. Kulak, your job is to bring together buyers and sellers of potential wilderness land. Who buys and sells wilderness?

Stephanie Kulak: Sellers include private individuals but also municipalities and church administrations. Potential buyers are usually foundations or conservation organizations. They, in turn, can refinance the purchase through the Wilderness Fund.

And you bring them together?

Yes, our Germany team and the partners of the Wilderness in Germany initiative offer expert support in identifying suitable areas. Basically, they work as matchmakers, bringing buyers and sellers to the table. This is done in close coordination with the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) and its granting agency, Zukunft -Umwelt - Gesellschaft (ZUG) gGmbH.

Are the potential wilderness areas easy to find?

In our densely populated country, large contiguous areas of a thousand hectares or more – the definition of wilderness here in Germany – are very hard to find. So yes, it can involve quite a bit of detective work. It can take a magnifying glass to find them: the former military training areas and postmining territories, the forests, lakes, mires, floodplains or mountain areas that could be potential wilderness areas.

What happens to the land once it has been given to a conservation organization?

Nature is simply allowed to reclaim these areas. There is no more forestry or agriculture. The organization does, however, continue to ensure that trees don't fall on paths, for example, and such safety-related things.

What has happened so far?

Since the inception of the Wilderness Fund, 1,108.4 hectares of future wilderness have been secured. This means that land purchases and usage rights have been funded to a total value of more than 15 million euros.

How large are these areas?

It varies. Piece by piece, even relatively small areas can soon accumulate into a larger whole. In 2021, a small but valuable area was added to Müritz National Park with financial support from the Wilderness Fund: the Umweltund Naturschutz Mecklenburg-Vorpommern foundation acquired a roughly 3.5-hectare parcel of land from private owners with the goal of taking it out of commercial use. It's a paradise for many rare bird species.

Another example is the Aschhorn Mire near Stade. The German Wildlife Foundation purchased a 471-hectare area of moorland – including peat-cutting rights in 74 hectares. Mires are important CO_2 sinks and thus crucial for climate protection. The Foundation can now phase out the use of peat several years before the originally planned discontinuation date.

Stephanie Kulak coordinates the project to establish the Wilderness Fund. She connects sellers with potential buyers of land with wilderness potential.

Guyana: A joint FZS and PAC team on their way to the Kanuku Mountains Protected Area. New State

SOUTH AMERICA

SPECIES RICHNESS IN AMAZONIA



The goal of our work in South America is to preserve the highly biodiverse habitats of the Amazon basin. Amazonia plays a major role supporting biodiversity, as a carbon sink regulating the Earth's climate, providing a home for indigenous peoples, and ensuring food supplies. Most protected areas where FZS operates remain in good shape, but unprotected areas are increasingly being exploited.

Global consumption and increasing demand for certain agricultural products and mineral resources are speeding up the destruction of the environment. In southeastern Peru, illegal gold mining is occurring in areas that were previously spared – along the Pariamanu River, for example. There has been a massive increase in coca cultivation in the buffer zone of the Manú National Park and within the Bahuaja-Sonene National Park. The pressure on protected areas and their surroundings will increase enormously unless resources are used more responsibly, especially by industrialized nations. Yaguas National Park harbors diverse habitats in both its water and its lush rainforests.

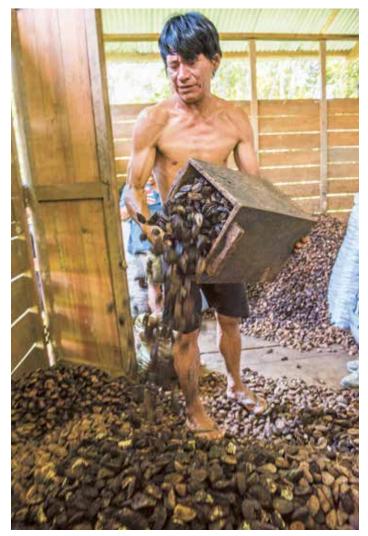


PERU

VAST LANDSCAPES WITH INCREDIBLE BIODIVERSITY

FZS has been operating in certain protected areas in Peru for more than 30 years; 2021 saw very little loss of forest within these areas' core zones, despite the general trend. This is an achievement we are very proud of. During the pandemic, FZS was one of the few conservation organizations that were able to maintain a permanent presence in all project areas while also adhering to Peru's strict coronavirus regulations. Moreover, the FZS Peru team grew to 70 employees by the end of 2021 despite the crisis.

The **Yaguas National Park** in Peru, which FZS helped to establish a few years ago, covers more than 8,680 square kilometers and remains free of illegal activities thanks to effective monitoring. Two overflights were undertaken in July and December 2021 in conjunction with government agencies. These flights revealed illegal activities in the Cotuhé private conservation concession on the eastern border of Yaguas outside the national park. Coca plantations and boats used for gold mining were visible from the air. Cocaine production laboratories were also discovered within the concession. As a result, the authorities are reviewing the license for this concession, as the conservation purpose has not been achieved.



In Bahuaja-Sonene National Park and the Tambopata National Reserve, residents are allowed to harvest Brazil nuts. Only in virgin forests do the trees produce enough Brazil nut fruits.

The **Bahuaja-Sonene-Tambopata region**, with its montane tropical forests and tropical wet savanna, covers just under 17,500 square kilometers. In 2021, our work there focused on the aerial surveillance and satellite monitoring of illegal activities. We also provided logistical support to the relevant law enforcement agencies in their efforts to combat these. This involved the destruction of machinery, vehicles, stores, fuel and equipment used for illegal gold mining in the buffer zone of the Tambopata National Reserve. Gold miners scour river sediment and use highly toxic mercury, which in turn poisons water and food. Alluvial gold mining is therefore a major threat to the Amazon ecosystem and the people who live in it.



The satellite image shows the Malinowski River, the border of the Tambopata National Reserve, and above an area destroyed by gold mining. Only the continued presence of the Peruvian park authority SERNANP and law enforcement authorities along the Malinowski prevented gold miners from entering the protected area in 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS 2021

Key developments in the protection of Bahuaja-Sonene and Tambopata

- Six patrols in highly inaccessible regions
- Two overflights of the park and buffer zones of Bahuaja-Sonene National Park and Tambopata National Reserve to check for illegal activities and assess the recovery of the ecosystem. Three illegal landing strips and a number of coca plantations and camps were discovered within the national park.
- Peruvian drug police destroyed two airstrips and a cocaine smuggling plane in the Andean highlands of Bahuaja-Sonene National Park.

The vast **Manú-Purús region** of southern Peru remains virtually untouched as the home of indigenous peoples with no contact with the modern world. Eight ethnic groups and several indigenous peoples live in isolation in the lowland regions of the Amazon basin of Manú. The Purús landscape, which together with the neighboring Manú landscape forms a gigantic, contiguous rainforest area and a crucial biological corridor, is one of the last areas on Earth where indigenous peoples live in isolation and without interfering with their natural environment.



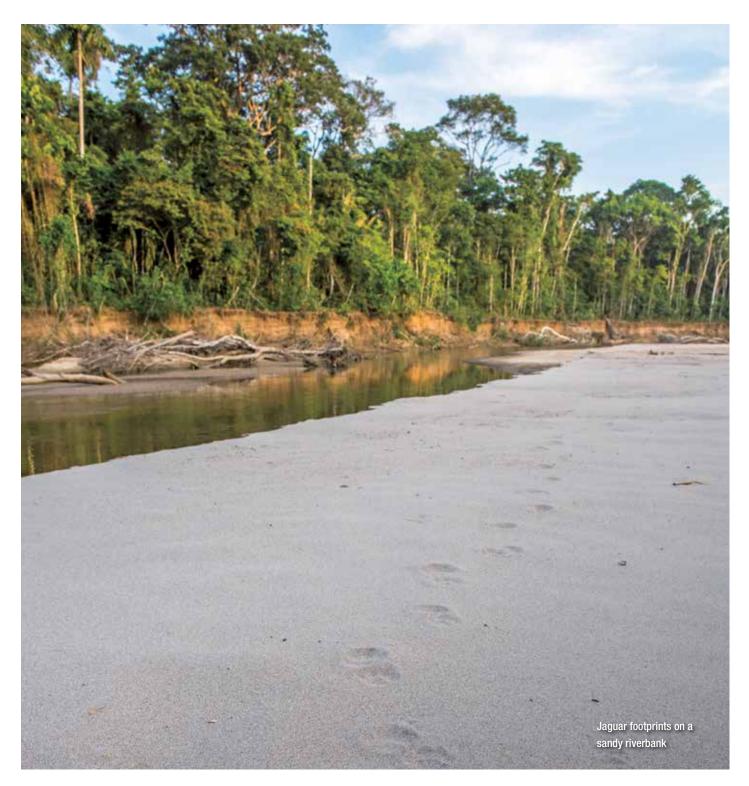
Danilo Jordán from FZS and a Tambopata ranger discussing the protection of the national reserve.

Forest fire prevention measures adopted in Manú have proven effective: In 2021, A major success of 2021 was the integration of the Boca there were no forest fires in the high Andean section of Manú National Park. Two four-wheel-drive quads were acquired, a 20-kilometer firebreak was maintained, and communication between checkpoints in the Andean part of the park was improved by installing satellite internet. All of these measures enable employees to respond quickly and without delay in the event of forest fires.

Manu boarding school into the Peruvian education system. We had been working toward this for many years. Matsiguenka students resident in Manú National Park live and learn at the boarding school. Now, the "Internado," which was run by FZS since 2008, is overseen by the Peruvian Ministry of Education.



In 2021, our Boca Manu boarding school was integrated into the Peruvian educational system. FZS founded the "Internado" in 2008 to give young Matsiguenkas living in Manú National Park the opportunity to attend school.



As in all FZS project areas in Peru, environmental education also plays an important ties, such as the logging of tropical timber, gold mining role in the Purús landscape. Our staff members joined forces with the Peruvian protected area authority, SERNANP, to open the first environmental education center on the Tahuamanu River in 2021. It will serve as a common meeting ground and strengthen knowledge about the rich biodiversity of the Alto Purús National Park among local communities.

A processing plant for huasaí palm fruit (Euterpe oleracea and Euterpe precatoria) was inaugurated in the town of Puerto Esperanza, north of Purús and close to the Brazilian border. There, the fruit can be processed into juices, powders and oils of consistently high quality. Families living in the area collect the fruit in the Purús communal reserve outside the national park. The processing and marketing of the fruit should provide them with a solid economic livelihood away from illegal activi-

or coca cultivation. In Europe, huasaí fruit is known as acai and enjoys great popularity as a superfood.

The overriding goal of such initiatives promoting the use and marketing of natural products is to offer ecologically sustainable economic options for residents and thus preserve the protected areas in Purús over the long term. If local people have a secure income based on tangible economic value, it will increase their acceptance of the protected areas.

Goldman Environmental Prize for Liz Chicaje Churay



In June 2021, Liz Chicaje Churay was awarded the prestiguous Goldman Environmental Prize as one of six environmental activists. Liz Chicaje Churay received the award for her tireless work as a Bora indigenous leader who fought to declare Yaguas Reserved Zone in Peru a national park, giving it an important level of protection that helps safeguard it against many threats, such as logging and illegal gold mining.

Bruno H. Schubert Awards for rainforest protectors

Four remarkable personalities who have dedicated themselves to protecting the Amazon rainforest were honored with the Bruno H. Schubert Award 2021 on April 28. They are all crucial partners for FZS projects.



Julia Miranda Londoño, Colombia. For 17 years, the lawyer who specializes in environmental law, was the director of the Colombian National Park Authority PNNC *(Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia)* and managed to significantly expand the network of protected areas in her country.



Teófilo Torres, Peru. The park director of Yaguas National Park played a decisive role in the fact that Yaguas Reserved Zone was upgraded to a national park. He is responsible for the protection of a significant part of the Amazon rainforest in the north of Peru.



Dr. Silvana Campello and George Georgiadis, Brazil. The two of them founded the Instituto Araguaia and committed themselves to protecting Cantão State Park. They also established a network of private protected areas directly adjacent to Cantão which form an ecological corridor.



COLOMBIA

A DANGEROUS PLACE FOR CONSERVATIONISTS

FZS is committed to protecting the unique Colombian Amazon that extends from the Chiribiquete National Park to the lower Putumayo River. We are working together with local communities and supporting the government in managing the protected areas.

The long-term monitoring of giant river turtles on the Caquetá River south of **Chiribiquete** in Colombia yielded some promising results in 2021, although the turtles have become rare elsewhere. The number of egg-laying females rose, continuing an upward trend for the population. Indigenous families have been independently monitoring turtles in cooperation with the *Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia* (PNNC), the Colombian park authority, for several years now.

A further milestone in 2021 was the presentation of the study *A Dangerous Climate* at the Berlin Climate and Security Conference at the end of September. The study shows how violence and environmental degradation in Colombia have intensified since the 2016 peace agreement between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). *A Dangerous Climate* was produced jointly by the World Wildlife Fund, the adelphi think tank, the Ideas for Peace Foundation (FIP) in Colombia and FZS.



Indigenous families participating in the FZS turtle program take turns monitoring the beaches, identifying and observing nests and collecting data on the *charapas*, as they call the giant river turtles.



A park ranger releasing newly hatched turtles.



Young turtles find their way to the river under the cover of darkness.



A sand bank on the Caquetá River, where the rare river turtles are nesting.

"THE VIOLENCE AGAINST ENVIRONMENTALISTS IN COLOMBIA MUST STOP"

Colombia is the most dangerous country on Earth for those working in environmental protection. Several environmental organizations working in the Colombian Amazon, including FZS, jointly commissioned a report entitled *A Dangerous Climate: Deforestation, Climate Change and Violence against Environmental Defenders in the Colombian Amazon* in 2021 to provide facts and background on this crisis and formulate possible solutions. Esperanza Leal, FZS program manager in Colombia, who contributed to creating the report, explains where her country's main problem lies.

Ms. Leal, what are the key findings in A Dangerous Climate?

Esperanza Leal: The roots of the crisis in the Colombian Amazon lie in more than 50 years of civil war with FARC guerrillas, as well as in the mismanagement and exploitation of natural resources. On top of this, there are also deep social, economic and political inequalities. Contrary to expectations, the report shows that conflict and environmental degradation have increased significantly since the signing of the peace agreement in 2016. There has been an unprecedented increase in deforestation in the Amazon and in the number of environmentalists who have been murdered. And the state is not doing nearly enough to prevent it.

Why is this report of international relevance?

We need to make it clear to the international community how complex the Amazon crisis is so that we can work together to develop new approaches to stop it. At present, however, the level of violence in the country forbids any meaningful nature conservation work. And that has to stop – to protect not only NGO and government employees but also the people in the local communities, and to meet global climate goals.

Should FZS continue to work in the Colombian Amazon? And if so, why?

We can't give up now. The climate crisis and the global loss of biodiversity make it more important than ever for FZS, the indigenous communities defending their lands, the staff of the national parks, the other NGOs and the donors to continue their work there. The Colombian government needs to do everything in its power to support the people and organizations that protect the environment – governmental and nongovernmental alike. We must find a way for us to do our work. We must protect Amazonia!



Esperanza Leal leads FZS's Colombia Program

"The Colombian government needs to do everything in its power to support the people and organizations that protect the environment – governmental and nongovernmental alike." GUYANA Kanuku Mountains Protected Area

GUYANA

REINFORCEMENT FOR THE PARK AUTHORITY

In Guyana, FZS continued its focus on supporting the Protected Areas Commission (PAC) in improving logistics for the Kanuku Mountains in 2021. With KfW funding, construction began in mid-October on an office in Lethem. The office will be used by the Kanuku Mountains Protected Area administration and serve as a ranger base. A new all-terrain vehicle was purchased, and a construction company was appointed to build the first ranger post in the protected area on the Rupununi River. Training was provided for PAC rangers and the staff at PAC headquarters.

Ecological monitoring constituted an important part of our work in Guyana again in 2021. Our project manager and PAC colleagues undertook the first-ever expedition to the remote highlands of the Kanuku Mountains Protected Area to install camera traps and learn more about the animals that live there. Evaluation of the data from the camera traps in the lowlands along the Rupununi River provided important information about the wildlife in the protected area. We also partnered with the South Rupununi Conservation Society for the first time to monitor river turtles (*Podocnemis unifilis*) in the protected area.



Cantão State Park

BRAZIL

BRAZIL

PLAGUED BY FIRES

In 2021, the main focus of our Brazilian partner organization, *Instituto Araguaia*, was on protecting the private nature reserves on the eastern edge of Cantão State Park. The project area has been severely impacted by fires in recent years. New forest firefighting equipment was purchased, including a tractor. Dr. Silvana Campello and George Georgiadis, directors of the Instituto Araguaia, were awarded the Bruno H. Schubert Prize in 2021 for their unceasing efforts to protect Cantão.

"The key to preventing fire is creating firebreaks along the boundaries of the protected areas. This stops the fire from getting anywhere near them. The new tractor is proving a blessing here."

George Georgiadis, Director of Instituto Araguaia

Sadly, the *Instituto Araguaia* team has to fight fires in and around Cantão State Park every year now.

A male Sumatra orangutan in Bukit Tiga Puluh, Indonesia SOUTHEAST ASIA

HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE IS SHRINKING



The expansion of coffee plantations in the mountainous area of Kon Ka Kinh in Vietnam and of oil palm growing areas in the buffer zone of the Bukit Tiga Puluh National Park in Indonesia has resulted in habitat loss for wildlife outside protected areas.

INDONESIA

PRESERVING HABITATS FOR ORANGUTANS – AND HUMANS

There was a wave of COVID-19 infections in the summer of 2021, and several FZS employees became ill. Fortunately, our strict COVID hygiene rules have so far prevented any infections among the orangutans in our jungle school.

The youngest orangutans ever to come into our care in the FZS Sumatra program arrived at the end of April: Sudin and Siti were only one and a half years old at the time. They were confiscated by the In-

donesian authorities just as they were about to be smuggled to Java by ferry. Sudin and Siti were taken to the FZS office in the city of Jambi. A nursery had to be set up where our colleagues could provide the best possible care for the two young orangutans. The two youngsters have since been taken to our field station on the edge of Bukit Tiga Puluh National Park. The orangutan clinic there was reorganized to allow the two to be cared for properly. Now, at almost three years old, Sudin and Siti are starting their jungle school training, in which they will be taught everything they need to know about living independently in the rainforest.

The routes taken by **140 elephants** are monitored daily by scouts via GPS collars attached to the animals. This information is supplemented with data from a smallholder network. In April 2021, Sudin and Siti were the two youngest orangutans yet to come into our care.



The Wildlife Protection Unit (WPU), an FZS team that handles human-wildlife conflicts, undertook joint forest patrols with rangers from Bukit Tiga Puluh National Park for the first time in 2021. Previously, the WPU operated exclusively in the park's fringe zone, the location of significant lowland habitats. In the future, FZS will be permanently involved in the national park. Due to increasing pressure on the forests there, it is important to make a direct contribution to their protection.

Ecological monitoring also plays an important role in Bukit Tiga Puluh. After all, it is only by gaining as accurate a picture as possible of which animals live in the ecosystem and what threats they are exposed to that we can plan for their protection effectively. Our FZS Ecosystem Monitoring Unit collects and evaluates data for this purpose.

As in all FZS projects, an essential part of our work in Bukit Tiga Puluh involves cooperating with people living in the protected areas or in the neighborhood. The "Green School," for example, hosts weekly events run by our environmental education team, the Mobile Education Unit. Men and women from the villages come to learn about new cultivation methods and find out about different crops. In 2021, the Mobile Education Unit helped women's groups set up three vegetable gardens. The women use the crops to provide for their families and then sell any surplus to their neighbors. In addition, four community groups received training on keeping wild bees to produce high-quality forest honey.

In the peripheral zone of the national park, the FZS team is also working with local partners to manage a special forest concession, the Ecosystem Restoration Concession (ERC). There, we support small-scale far-

mers in the cultivation of vanilla, which represents a sustainable and attractive alternative to the environmentally harmful cultivation of oil palms. By the end of 2021, 26,000 vanilla seedlings were already thriving in the ERC after just one year. These initiatives help provide a secure income for smallholders and raise the efficiency of the existing fields – all with the long-term goal of reducing forest loss.

We are working together with people from the villages to replant forest areas that were burned in previous years. A nursery of native forest trees was established for this purpose. Last year, more than 70,000 seedlings from 30 different tree species were nurtured, and the first seedlings were planted out. Our aim here is to accelerate ecological succession.



We support small-scale farmers to grow vanilla in the buffer zone of the national park as an alternative to the environmentally harmful oil palm.

Kon Chu Rang Nature Reserve Kon Ka Kinf^{*} National Park

VIETNAM

ACTIVE IN THE BIOSPHERE RESERVE

The UNESCO designation of the Kon Ha Nung region (covering an area of about 413,500 hectares) as a biosphere reserve was one of the main highlights of 2021. The FZS team in Vietnam had campaigned for this for several years. The reserve covers the central mountainous region of the Gia Lai Province. The longstanding FZS project area, Kon Ka Kinh National Park, and Kon Chu Rang Nature Reserve are the core zones of the new biosphere reserve. FZS is now deploying direct measures in both core zones to safeguard the protected areas. At the end of the year, a celebration to launch the cooperation was held together with the administration of the biosphere reserve and representatives from the surrounding Bana communities.

In the coming years, FZS will play an advisory role in the management of the biosphere reserve, contribute to the five-year management plan and work to safeguard the unprotected forest corridor of 25,500 hectares, either by expanding the nature reserve or by establishing a new protected area.

IMPROVED LONG-TERM PROSPECTS FOR PROTECTING THE REGION

Kon Ka Kinh National Park and Kon Chu Rang Nature Reserve became part of the new UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in September 2021. This was a resounding success, also for Dr. Ha Thang Long, head of the Vietnam Conservation Project, and his FZS team in Vietnam.

Dr. Long, are you pleased about the new biosphere reserve?

Ha Thang Long: Yes. We have been collaborating with Kon Ka Kinh National Park since 2010 on ways to extend the protected area. The decisive moment finally arrived in September 2021. The Gia Lai People's Committee called to inform me that FZS was receiving an award for its role in establishing the Kon Ha Nung Biosphere Reserve.

What is special about the area?

The Kon Ha Nung Biosphere Reserve includes our FZS project areas – Kon Ka Kinh National Park and Kon Chu Rang Nature Reserve – as protected core zones. It covers about 4,000 square kilometers. Within it are protected mountain forests, state forestry enterprises, forested common land, agricultural land and settlements.

Why agriculture and settlements?

A biosphere reserve should ideally benefit both the people there and the environment. This UNESCO designation highlights the value of biodiversity in this area, but it also brings many benefits to the local people, including jobs and better educa-

tion. Ecologically sustainable economic development also opens up good long-term prospects for nature conservation and better preservation of nonprotected areas, such as important wildlife corridors.

Are there any notable species in these mountain forests?

This region of Vietnam is home not only to my favorite primate, the gray-shanked douc langur, which I've studied for nearly 20 years, but also to other rare species, such as the nocturnal pygmy slow loris.

> Dr. Ha Thang Long leads FZS's Forest Protection Project in Vietnam.

OUR VIETNAM CONSERVATION PROJECT 2021 IN NUMBERS

We reached about **280 members of the Bana people** with our environmental education program in the villages, as well as **300 students in three secondary schools.**

Training, equipment and financial support for the monthly forest patrols of **nine forest guard posts** were provided.

> Nine camera traps took 20,170 photographs in the park's core zone: 12 species were identified, including rare species such as the silver pheasant (Lophura nycthemera) and masked palm civet (Paguma larvata).

Thirty-three students from

11 Vietnamese universities took part in the annual environmental course held in cooperation with Danang University, and an alumni network was established with former participants.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2021

FZS supports Community Conservation Banks (COCOBAs). Following the principles of cooperative banks, the members manage their funds themselves and grant each other loans for environmentally friendly businesses.



PRESENTING FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Frankfurt Zoological Society(FZS) is a registered non-profit society based in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. The origins of the Society are found in the work of Professor Bernhard Grzimek, who first set up FZS as a support society for the Zoo. From the 1960s on, FZS continuously expanded its commitment to nature conservation and today is an internationally recognized conservation NGO. From the outset, it has been based at the zoo in Frankfurt.

As 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 am Main V Tax Office, tax no. 47 250 98191, of December 15, 2021, according to § 5 para 1 no. 9 of the Corporation Tax Law. Its official organs are the General Assembly and the Board of Directors.

The **General Assembly** convenes once a year. It elects the Board and approves its activities, approves the annual financial statements and elects the auditor. In 2021, the Society had 3,606 members, consisting of private individuals and institutions.

According to its statutes, the **Board** consists of up to eight individuals who work on a voluntary basis. It is elected for three years and adopts the annual program of projects and the annual budget as put forward by the Executive Director. No conference or attendance fees are paid to the members of the Board of Directors. The Board may appoint an executive director for operational management. Dr. Christof Schenck has conducted the Society's business since the year 2000.

In 2021, FZS employed 1,277 staff members. Most of them are local staff in the projects employed by the respective FZS country organizations or collaborative joint ventures with the national parks.



Ethiopian wolf, Bale Mountains National Park, Ethiopia

HONORARY BOARD OF FZS

Klaus Becker (*President*) Prof. Dr. Manfred Niekisch (*Vice President*) Dr. Thomas Kantenwein (*Vice President*) Prof. Dr. Katrin Böhning-Gaese Hans Bernhardt Dr. Norbert Kloppenburg Egon Kochanke Hans Joachim Suchan

HONORARY FOUNDATION BOARD

Gerhard Kittscher *(Chairman of the Board)* Hans Bernhardt *(Vice Chairman)* Klaus Becker Dr. Miguel Casares* Gabriele Eick Dr. Jürgen Heraeus Dr. Thomas Kantenwein Dr. Norbert Kloppenburg Dr. Manuela Rottmann** Sylvia von Metzler Harald Roos

HONORARY BOARD OF FZS-US

Dr. Christof Schenck *(President)* Prof. Dr. Andy Dobson *(Vice President)* Dr. Peyton West *(Treasurer and Executive Director)* Matt Arnold Curtis Ravenel Jason Scott Heather Zichal

THE FZS NETWORK

FZS is supported by its foundation. *Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt* – *Förderstiftung der Zoologischen Gesellschaft Frankfurt von 1858 e. V.* is a legally independent foundation under private law based in Frankfurt am Main. It is recognized as a non-profit organization for the promotion of nature conservation and animal welfare and exclusively supports the nature conservation work of FZS. The foundation is represented by an honorary foundation board, whose chairman in 2021 was Gerhard Kittscher.

The foundation's untouchable capital stock amounted to 61.31 million euros in 2021. The balance sheet total, including reserves and trust assets, amounted to 79.63 million euros. Last year, the foundation provided 1.38 million euros for FZS's nature conservation work.

FZS has been supported in the United States of America since 2008 by the independent non-profit organization **Frankfurt Zoological Society US (FZS-US)**. This 501(c)(3) organization is also exempt from tax, and the donations from private and institutional American donors in support of the FZS project work are eligible for tax relief. FZS-US is run by a Board. This consists of seven volunteer members. Its President is the FZS Executive Director, Dr. Christof Schenck. Since 2012, the organization has been run by Executive Director Dr. Peyton West, who is also a member of the Board.

Frankfurt Zoological Society is represented in Peru by the nonprofit association Ayuda para vida Silvestre Amenazada – Sociedad Zoológica de Francfort Perú (AVISA SZF Peru), in Colombia by Sociedad Zoológica de Frankfurt, and in Zambia by Frankfurt Zoological Society Zambia Ltd. It is also registered as a national or international non-profit organization in other countries, such as Ethiopia, Tanzania, DR Congo, Zimbabwe, Vietnam and Indoesia.



FZS INVOLVEMENT IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

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

FZS is an **institutional member** of BioFrankfurt e. V., Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR), Charles Darwin Foundation and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). FZS launched the "Wildnis in Deutschland" initiative and has been coordinating its activities together with Naturstiftung David. Twenty nature conservation organizations have joined the initiative. In 2021, FZS was also represented by its Executive Director, board members and heads of departments and programs on the boards and committees of the following **organizations and institutions:**

Allianz Umweltstiftung, Bruno H. Schubert Foundation, Claus und Taslimawati Schmidt-Luprian Stiftung Vogelschutz in Feuchtgebieten, Conservation Lake Tanganyika, Eleonore-Beck-Stiftung, Fundatia Conservation Carpathia, Gonarezhou Conservation Trust (GCT), Initiative Frankfurter Stiftungen, IUCN Otter Specialist Group, Kashikoto Conservancy, Lowveld Rhino Trust, Polytechnische Gesellschaft e. V., Regina Bauer Stiftung, Stiftung Naturlandschaften Brandenburg (SNLB), Stiftung Zoo Frankfurt, Wildlife Crime Prevention, Walter und Monika Schneider Stiftung.

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

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 program. This sets out all necessary measures and relevant budgets. 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 program is drawn up and budgeted by the project and program managers in cooperation with the executive management. It is based on the long-term strategic planning of FZS, as well as any acute challenges which may arise, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 program and the related budget plan (including project investments), as well as the organizational resources.

2 The project managers and their teams submit applications to further public and institutional donors, to the extent required and possible. 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 from the budget. The financial software used in all FZS projects worldwide allows financial processes to be reviewed and managed by the Frankfurt headquarters.

<u>4</u> The project staff implement the FZS conservation program in collaboration with governmental and other partners in the project countries.

5 There is an established reporting system for the projects and expenditures. 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.



Initiative Transparente Zivilgesellschaft

Financial statements are drawn up in accordance with international and countryspecific 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 FZS in Frankfurt and the combined financial statements of the project countries are scrutinized by an independent auditor.

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.

WHAT DO THE FZS INVESTMENTS LOOK LIKE?

Long-term financial security is a necessary prerequisite for carrying out sustainable conservation work. Overseen by various asset managers in order to reduce administrative costs and to optimize risk-return parameters, the financial assets are mainly bundled in the organization's own special FZS master fund. All of these measures are subject to strict investment guidelines and are based on SDG, respectively ESG financial market criteria.

1 KEINE /#*###################################	3 GESUNDHEIT UND WOHLERGEHEN	5 GESCHLECHTER GLEICHHEIT	6 SAUBERES WASSER UND SANTAR- EINIGHTUNGEN	7 BEZAHLBARE UND SAUBBERE ENERDE	8 ARBEITUND WRISCHAFTS- WACHSTUM	9 INDUSTRE. INNOVATION UND INFRASTRUKTUR
10 WENGER UNGLECHHEITEN	11 STADTE UND GEMENDEN	12 NACHHALIBE/R KONSUM UND PRODUKTON	13 KASSKAAHMEN ZUM	14 LEBEN UNITER WASSER	15 ANIAND	16 FREDEN GERECHTDEKET UNDSTARKE INSTITUTIONEN

EXCERPT FROM THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT GUIDELINES

- No investment may conflict with the conservation mandate.
- In the case of investments in technology-oriented companies, preference is given to those that develop, produce and apply modern, advanced and alternative technologies.
- Investments in gold, precious metals, fossil fuels or other commodities, the extraction of which currently has a strong negative impact on the environment, are excluded.
- Assets may not be invested in companies that 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 the Society.
- The investment currency is the euro. Currency risk is limited to a maximum of 30% of the total investment volume.

DONATIONS AND THIRD-PARTY FUNDS: EVERY EURO DONATED HAS A SIXFOLD EFFECT!

FZS is a non-profit organization. The basis for our conservation work is donations, contributions and membership fees as well as fines. Only with these core funds can we attract further public and institutional funding.

In 2021, FZS received donations and contributions totaling 3.16 million euros. In addition, we were able to submit project proposals to institutional and public donors such as KfW Development Bank, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV). We raised a total of 16.31 million euros for our nature conservation work. Every euro donated has a sixfold effect!



FZS wants to focus exclusively on nature conservation. This is why we deliberately keep our marketing efforts to a minimum – allowing us to invest as much money as possible in conservation work. Sponsors and members receive no welcome gifts, for example, and we do not run marketing or advertising campaigns. We use our website, social media channels, (online) lectures, awareness-raising initiatives, fundraising letters and our GORILLA magazine to keep our supporters informed,

to ask them for help, and to attract new recruits to the cause. In the case of the fundraising letters and the magazine, the donations they generate exceed the amount expended se-

OUR LARGEST INSTITUTIONAL DONORS IN 2021

The funds listed below were used in the projects in 2021.

GERMANY	PROJECT COUNTRY	EURO
KfW Development Bank	Ethiopia, Zambia, Tanzania	3,106,732
Federal Ministry for the Environ- ment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV)	Indonesia, Peru, Ukraine	1,496,784
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Inter- nationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	Ethiopia, Peru, Zambia	521,336
KfW Foundation	Peru, Zambia	64,735
Karl Kübel Foundation	Ethiopia	51,143
INTERNATIONAL	PROJECT COUNTRY	EURO
The Wildcat Foundation	DR Congo, Zambia	2,139,608
U.S. Department of State International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Angency (INL)	Zambia	1,705,278
The Wyss Foundation	Zambia, Tanzania	1,496,784
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Indonesia, DR Congo, Zambia, Tanzania	626,586
Lion Recovery Fund	Zambia, Tanzania	540,013

veral times over. All these activities are conducted by our full-time team in Frankfurt. When planning these measures, we attach a great deal of importance to both cost-effective content and sustainable production.

> Our German members' magazine, GORILLA, is published three times a year with a circulation of 7,000. It provides members, donors and partners with updates about our project work.

FINANCIAL REPORT

ACCOUNTING AND VALUATION METHODS

The annual financial statements as of December 31, 2021, have been prepared according to the provisions of section 264 et seq. of the German Commercial Code (HGB) and meet 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 2021, the FZS projects in Peru, Colombia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe and Zambia were audited by the auditing firm Baker Tilly International, and that in Ethiopia was audited by Ephrem Melaku & Co. Additional independent, project-specific audits have been conducted for third-party projects funded by KfW Development Bank and GIZ, including those in Tanzania, Zambia, Ethiopia and Indonesia.

The same financial software (ABACUS) and double-entry bookkeeping methods are used for all FZS projects in Africa, Vietnam, Indonesia, Colombia and Peru as in the Frankfurt headquarters. This makes group consolidation of international projects with the headquarters in Germany considerably easier and facilitates transparency in the presentation of financial flows. It also strengthens the internal control system for the proper disbursement of donations, membership fees, civil penalties and third-party funds.

ASSETS

FIXED ASSETS

Tangible assets

Tangible assets at the end of 2021 amounted to roughly EUR 98,000 (previous year: EUR 79,000). In 2021, tangible assets increased due to the acquisition and replacement of IT equipment. In 2018 (EUR 6.3 million), tangible assets were already significantly reduced following the transfer of FZS's real estate on a long-term basis to the "Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt" (Help for Threatened Wildlife) Foundation in order to generate continuous rental revenue. The Foundation has continued interest in obtaining larger contiguous residential properties for its investment portfolio with a view to further diversification.

ASSETS in TEuro	2021	2020
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	98	79
Financial assets	24,778	26,634
CURRENT ASSETS		
Receivables and other assets	5,290	4,060
Liquid assets	19,146	4,970
PREPAYMENTS AND ACCRUED INCOME	40	66
TOTAL	49,352	35,809

Financial assets

The financial assets consist of shareholdings and security investments. The amount invested in the financial markets was reduced slightly in the 2021 balance sheet from EUR 26.63 million in the previous year to EUR 24.78 million. The main purpose of this was to increase liquidity, which is necessary both to cope with the higher project throughput and to permit the prefinancing of larger individual projects funded by third parties. Financial assets are mainly bundled into the organization's master fund, overseen by various asset managers, in order to reduce administrative costs and optimize riskreturn parameters. Securities are carried at cost or using the lowerof-cost-or-market principle. This also means that any price increases of shares or bonds that exceed the purchase costs have no effect on the balance sheet. Only when securities are sold or written down (if the value at sale is below the purchase cost) does the result impact the profit and loss account.

CURRENT ASSETS

Receivables and other assets

In receivables and other assets, the main item of EUR 5.29 million (previous year: EUR 4.06 million) is made up of funds from project partners and third-party granting institutions. The value of these assets is currently EUR 2.23 million, up from EUR 2.12 million in the previous year. Another major item is the EUR 1.36 million owed to project partners in the form of own funds not spent at year-end (previous year: EUR 0.66 million). This level of receivables vis-à-vis project partners is mainly due 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 a funded project.

LIABILITIES in TEuro	2021	2020
EQUITY		
Capital and free reserves	27,756	28,201
PROVISIONS	862	1,120
LIABILITIES		
Project funds	19,532	5,056
Other liabilities	1,202	1,432
TOTAL	49,352	35,809

LIABILITIES

EQUITY

Capital and free reserves

Equity capital decreased by EUR 0.44 million from EUR 28.20 million in 2020 to EUR 27.76 million in 2021. The result from estates increased the Society's assets; in return, reserves were released for project work. The release of reserves for project work was originally planned to be much higher; however, favorable revenue levels made it possible to reduce this amount. The remaining reserves from inheritances will continue to be used for project work, organizational and project development and risk reduction in the coming years.

PROVISIONS

Provisions amounted to EUR 0.86 million (previous year: EUR 1.12 million). Principal among these are provisions for the settlement of estates to the value of EUR 0.52 million.

LIABILITIES

Project funds for international conservation projects

Project liabilities vis-à-vis third-party granting organizations were EUR 19.53 million in 2021 (previous year: EUR 5.06 million). The total is mainly due to third-party funds that were unspent during the year under review and must be separately accounted for at year's end. Frequently, third-party funds are paid in December even though they are not used until the following year. We were also able to reduce other liabilities for international project work last year. The project funds to be accrued at year-end also increase along with the project revenues. A decisive factor behind the extraordinary increase was a large emergency aid package for the protected areas in Tanzania accounting for EUR 14.36 million at the end of the year. This is financed from third-party funds (see also Liquid assets).

Other liabilities

At EUR 1.20 million, other liabilities were slightly lower than in the previous year (EUR 1.43 million). These consist of liabilities in the form of personnel costs, taxes, usufruct, etc.

Liquid assets

The cash and bank balances of FZS in Frankfurt, Vietnam, Indonesia, Peru, Colombia and the five African project regions amounted to EUR 19.15 million (previous year: EUR 4.97 million), of which EUR 17.61 million is assigned to the Frankfurt office. The significant increase in cash and bank balances is due to a KfW third-party project. By the end of the year, around EUR 14.36 million had been transferred to special FZS project accounts, although the funds will not be spent until 2022. This reduces liquidity, allowing project goals to be implemented successively.

Roughly EUR 1.50 million is held at banks in the project regions and in Frankfurt in foreign currencies, with EUR 0.86 million in U.S. dollars. FZS's liquid assets are held in 12 different currencies. Except in the case of third-party granting institutions, surplus liquidity is parked in overnight deposit accounts or invested long-term in the FZS master fund.

PREPAYMENTS AND ACCRUED INCOME

Accrued income encompasses costs paid and thus deferred for future financial years, such as insurance costs.

STATEMENT OF INCOME

REVENUES

FZS has a very good and diversified revenue structure. **Funding** grants amounted to EUR 16.31 million (previous year: EUR 15.18 million). Money not yet expended is not listed as revenue. It is accrued as a liability and not recognized as revenue until the year in which it is expended.

In 2021, the **"Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt**" Foundation contributed EUR 1.38 million to FZS (previous year: EUR 1.59 million). The distribution also includes a regular donation from the Eleonore Beck Foundation of EUR 0.39 million (previous year: EUR 0.55 million).

Income from **inheritances and bequests** remained at a very high level of EUR 3.02 million in 2021 (previous year: EUR 2.66 million). This income is due not only to a large number of inheritances but also to a handful of large testamentary bequests.

Donations, sponsorship contributions and fines remain at a gratifyingly high level. At EUR 2.86 million, they not only matched the previous year's result (EUR 2.79 million) but exceeded it, thanks in part to some major individual donations.

Income from **membership fees** remained stable at EUR 0.30 million (previous year: EUR 0.29 million). The number of members increased slightly from 3,585 to 3,606 in 2021.

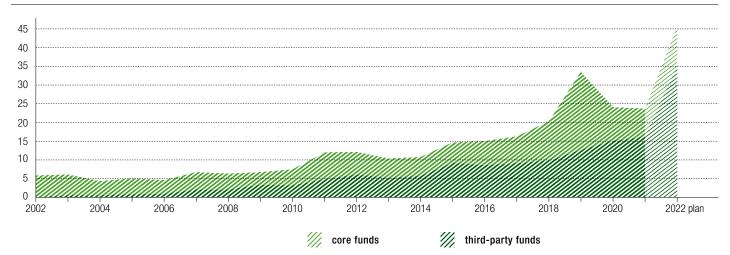
Low interest rates and poor capital market performance are currently making it difficult to generate **interest and income from securities**. FZS has been investing in the Foundation's master fund since 2020. The master fund performed very well in the year under review, generating an income of EUR 1.01 million in 2021 (previous year: EUR 0.55 million).

Other income of EUR 0.52 million is on par with the figure from the previous year (EUR 0.50 million). EUR 0.45 million in **reserves** was released (previous year: EUR 0.49 million) to offset the level of expenditure.

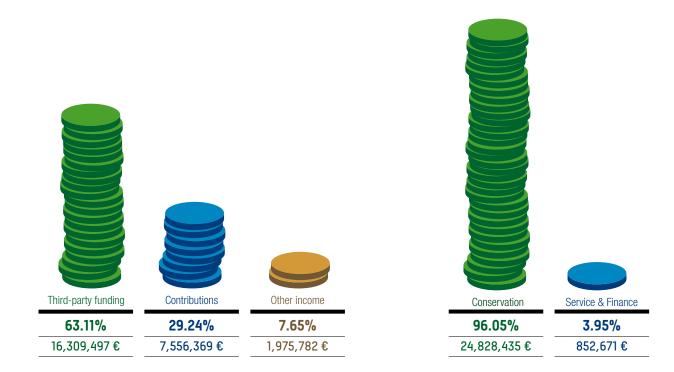
EXPENDITURES

Total expenditures amounted to EUR 25.84 million (previous year: EUR 24.05 million), an increase of EUR 1.79 million over the previous year. Of this amount, **conservation projects** accounted for EUR 23.59 million (previous year: EUR 22.04 million), EUR 1.55 million more than in the previous year.

EUR 1.16 million was spent on **project coordination and administrati-on** (previous year: EUR 1.05). The main components were personnel costs amounting to EUR 0.98 million (previous year: EUR 0.89 million), followed by IT and general office expenses and insurance premiums. General legal and consulting costs of EUR 18,000 were kept very low thanks to the use of pro-bono networks.



DEVELOPMENT OF FZS REVENUES in million euro



REVENUES

REVENUES in million euro	2021	2020
Third-party funding	16.31	15.18
Bonuses from the "Hilfe für die bedrohte Tierwelt" Foundation	1.38	1.59
Bequests (including real estate)	3.02	2.66
Donations and allocated fines	2.86	2.79
Membership fees	0.30	0.29
Interest and income from securities	1.01	0.55
Other income	0.52	0.50
Release of reserves	0.45	0.49
TOTAL	25.84	24.05

EXPENDITURES

EXPENDITURES in million euro	2021	2020
Conservation projects	23.59	22.04
Coordination of conservation program, Frankfurt headquarters	1.16	1.05
Support of Frankfurt Zoo/ conservation ambassadors	0.07	0.14
Communications and Public Relations	0.45	0.45
Fundraising and Sponsor Service	0.41	0.27
Write-downs on securities and fixed assets	0.16	0.11
TOTAL	25.84	24.05

FZS gave EUR 0.07 million to the **Frankfurt Zoo** and the collaborative conservation ambassador project (previous year: EUR 0.14 million).

Expenditures on **communications and public relations**, including attributable personnel costs, amounted to EUR 0.45 million, as in the previous year. EUR 0.41 million was spent on **sponsor services and fundraising** (previous year: EUR 0.27 million). The increase is due in particular to the filling of vacant positions on this team.

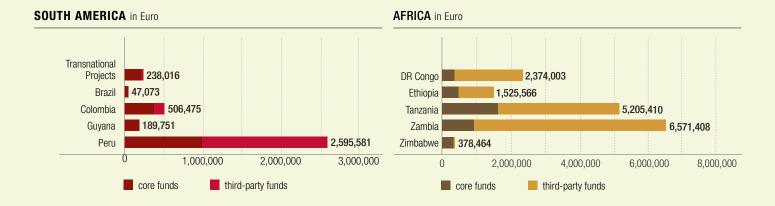
Depreciation, securities and exchange rate losses amounted to EUR 0.16 million (previous year: EUR 0.11 million). Of this, depreciation on fixed assets and low-value fixed assets amounted to just under EUR 32,000, as in the previous year. Foreign currency losses, based on year-end valuations of the foreign currency accounts of the FZS headquarters in Frankfurt, increased at the end of the year and amounted to EUR 129,000 (previous year: EUR 69,000).

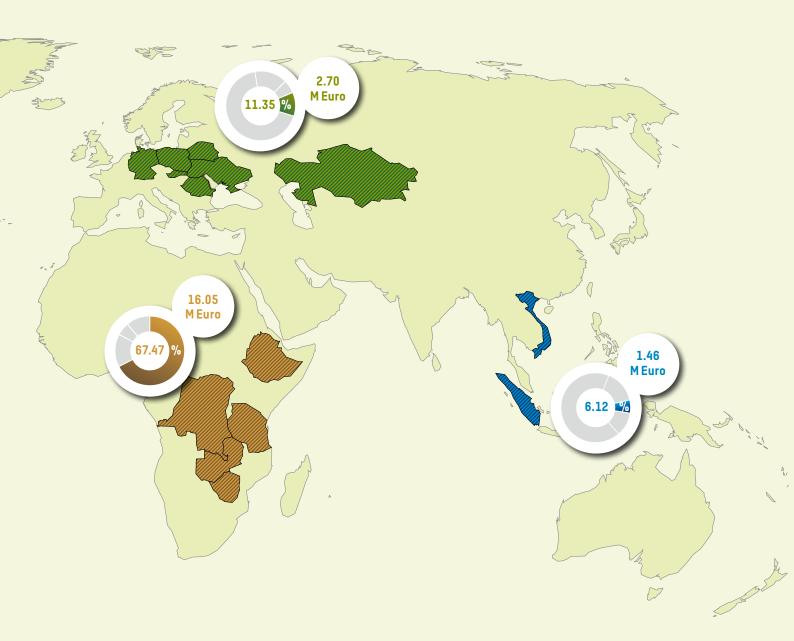
EUR 24.83 MILLION FOR NATURE CONSERVATION 31 PROJECTS & PROGRAMS 18 COUNTRIES

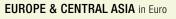
RY 1 (core funds

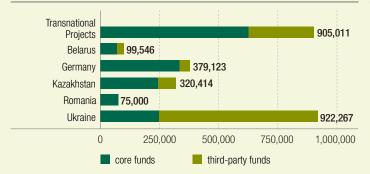
DISTRIBUTION 2021 OF EXPENDITURES BY COUNTRY

Distribution of FZS conservation expenditures 2021 (core funds and third-party funds, excluding costs for project coordination, plus EUR 1.03 million for transnational project costs).

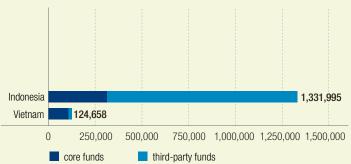








SOUTHEAST ASIA in Euro



DONORS AND PARTNERS 2021

List grouped by headquarters of institutions and organizations

AUSTRALIA

Griffith University International Elephant Project, IEP Perth Zoo The Orangutan Project, TOP The Thin Green Line Foundation Wildlife Conservation International

AUSTRIA

WWF Central and Eastern Europe WWF Österreich

BELARUS

Bahna

BRAZIL

Instituto Araguaia

COLOMBIA

Asociación de autoridades tradicionales indígenas, PANI

Fundación Ideas para la Paz

Fundación para la Conservación y el Desarrollo Sostenible, FCDS GAIA Amazonas

GAIA Amazonas

Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia, PNNC Wildlife Conservation Society Colombia, WCS Colombia WWF Colombia

DR CONGO

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ECUADOR

Fundación Charles Darwin, FCD

ETHIOPIA

Bale Mountains National Park Charities and Societies Agency, Chsa Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, EWCA Oromia Agriculture and Natural Resource Bureau, OANRB Oromia Environment Forest and Climate Change Authority Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise Oromia Regional Health Bureau, OHB Oromia Livestock and Fisherv Resource Development Bureau, OLFRDB Oromia Planning and Economic Development Commission, PEDCO Oromia Rural Land Administration and Use Bureau Population, Health and Environment -Ethiopia Consortium SOS Sahel

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Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group, KMCRG Protected Areas Commission, PAC

HONG KONG

Full Circle Foundation

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Bukit Tiga Puluh National Park Directorate General for Protection of Natural Resources and Ecosystems, KSDAE Jambi Forestry Department, DINHUT Jambi Provincial Natural Resource Conservation Agency, BKSDA

Ministry for Environment and Forestry, KLHK Yayasan Ekosistem Lestari, YEL

Yayasan Konservasi Ekosistem Hutan Sumatera, KEHUS

KAZAKHSTAN

Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan, ACBK

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Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan

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Federación Nativa del Rio Madre de Dios y Afluentes, FENAMAD

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Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources National Ecological Centre of Ukraine, NECU

Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds, USPB

UNITED KINGDOM

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Adventure Travel Conservation Fund Amazon Conservation Team, ACT Arcus Foundation Blue Foundation Chicago Field Museum Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund Disney Conservation Fund

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African Parks Conservation Lower Zambezi Conservation South Luangwa Department of National Parks and Wildlife, DNPW Gemfields Mpika, Shiwa, Chama, Chipata, Chinsali, Isoka, Nsama and Mpulungu District Governments Remote Africa Safaris Wildlife Crime Prevention

ZIMBABWE

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