

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

# Lake Constance Foundation

For the protection of the environment,  
climate, and nature – regionally, nationally  
and internationally



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**Markus Bürgisser**  
Managing Director  
Pro Natura Thurgau

### FOREWORD

Dear Readers,

with so many important issues such as global warming, biodiversity loss and water pollution, we must not lose hope. The many projects of the Lake Constance Foundation give me this much-needed hope. The team achieves great things for an intact environment every day with unhindered motivation.

It is a pleasure to read about their successes for nature and the climate in this report.

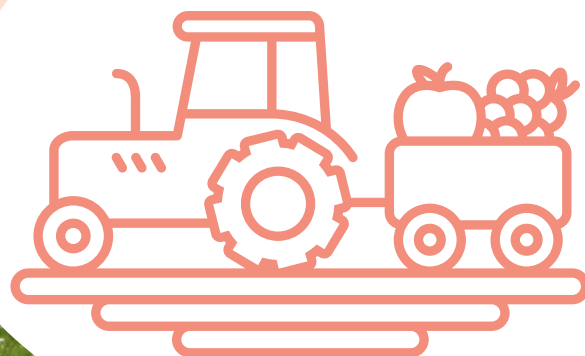
I am happy to know that the team of the Lake Constance Foundation is made up of many intelligent, committed and good-hearted people who care about our world. And as a representative of Pro Natura, I am proud to be part of the Swiss representation on the Board of Directors.

**Your Markus Bürgisser**



# Agriculture & the Food Sector

Together with partners from agriculture, the food industry and nature conservation, we launch initiatives and projects. All-round sustainable food systems are our goal.



## The demands on agriculture are huge or in favour of more domestic pulses

Climate change, or rather the climate crisis, has been one of the biggest challenges to agriculture for years. This makes it even clearer that we are not talking about a gentle change, but about a dramatic development that we are now experiencing several times a year in the form of, for example, droughts and extreme precipitation. But regardless of whether we talk about climate change, climate crisis or climate catastrophe, chaos or collapse – the issue needs our full attention. Nature does not negotiate. It follows certain laws.

This requires bold action. On the one hand, in adapting to the effects in order to reduce the vulnerability of cultivation systems. A major focus here continues to be on building up soil fertility in order to increase resistance to drought, heavy rainfalls and erosion events. On the other hand, we must do everything we can to protect the climate. To do this, we must promote energy savings, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move further away from fossil resources.

An equally important crisis is the global loss of biodiversity.

„Almost half of current food production is harmful to our planet – it leads to a loss of biodiversity, harms ecosystems and exacerbates water scarcity.“ This was the conclusion reached by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in a study four years ago. However, Dieter Gerten, lead author from PIK and professor at Humboldt University in Berlin, also has good news: transformations in food production will enable the production of food for up to 10 billion people.

Above all, we need to reduce food waste – currently at around 30% worldwide. And: „We devote too much land to animal

husbandry and crops, fertilise too much and irrigate excessively.“ More sustainable agriculture can also increase overall climate resilience while limiting global warming.

We must therefore recognise both the climate and biodiversity crisis and take decisive action against them. Adaptations such as mixed cropping, but also alternative systems such as agroforestry systems or microfarming, can play an important role in combating both crises.

However, all of this does not come for free. Farmers must be supported in adapting their farms and promoting biodiversity. There must be no weakening of agriculture. Politicians must set the framework conditions accordingly. The new CAP is heading in the right direction, but improvements are still needed. Politicians can set the framework. The food industry plays an important role with its pricing and supplier loyalty as well.

And last but not least, we as consumers have a role to play. Our demands help determine how much land is used for animal feed production, how much energy-intensive synthetic nitrogen fertiliser is used and where our food is produced.

By the way: more native pulses (legumes) mean more vegetable protein for consumers, more flowering plants for insects, more natural nitrogen fixation and a boost to soil fertility. Cheers.

*Andreas Ziermann, Programme Manager  
Agriculture & the Food Sector*





# No food security without biodiversity

## The Lake Constance Foundation promotes and challenges land users and the food industry when it comes to biodiversity

The biodiversity crisis is still overshadowed by the climate crisis, although it is in no way inferior to it in terms of drama: According to a study published in November 2023 under the direction of Trier biologist Axel Hochkirch, 19 percent, almost a fifth, of species are threatened with extinction. Insects in particular are suffering huge losses. The research team believes that the greatest threat is the intensive commercial use of land.

### No small details: bringing insect protection to a wider area

The Lake Constance Foundation works in various projects with land users to protect biodiversity. It is crucial that sufficiently interconnected and high-quality habitats are preserved and expanded. This is precisely where the EU LIFE project „Insect-promoting regions“ comes into play.

The project partners Lake Constance Foundation, Global Nature Fund, Netzwerk Blühende Landschaft, Bäuerliche Erzeugergemeinschaft Schwäbisch Hall

and Nestlé Germany have established regional alliances with representatives from associations, science and administration in seven Insect-Friendly Regions (IFR). They help to motivate interested farms, institutions and local authorities to implement biodiversity-promoting measures, such as over 50 agricultural demonstration farms, which are supported and advised by the project team.

Meadows and forests, as well as communal areas, should remain a habitat for insects or become one again. What's special is that the food industry is also a cooperation partner.

The results and concepts for measures from the project regions Allgäu, Lake Constance, Bliesgau, Northern Upper Rhine, Wendland and Vinschgau in Italy will be transferable to many cultivation regions in Germany and the EU.

### Measures create valuable habitat

The Lake Constance Foundation manages the Lake Constance and Northern Upper Rhine IFRs. Leimen and, for the first time in 2023, Wiesloch have been recruited as demonstration municipalities. In concrete terms, this means that the Lake Constance Foundation supports them with training for employees of construction yards, in land reorganisation and through increased public relations work such as lectures. It also advised Wiesloch on the creation of an insect protection concept.

Farm visits, constructive dialogue with farmers, developing and evaluating measures made up a large part of the work of Christine Kewes, Dr Patrick Pyttel, Annekathrin Vogel and Saskia Wolf in the project in 2020. With valuable fruits for insects: In Ubstadt-Weiher, for example, the Hafner winery has added flowering tramlines with anchor plants such as rosemary and lavender to offer more food to insects in autumn. The dairy farm Hofgut Schleinkofer in Karlsruhe-Rüppurr has not



At field days organised by the Lake Constance Foundation, farmers discussed their experiences with biodiversity-promoting measures. The picture shows Jonas Schlatter from Buchhaldehof Rielasingen, a demonstration farm in the IFR project, which presented its experiences with maize undersowing.

only provided shade and wind protection for cattle by planting trees and shrubs in the pastures, but has also improved biodiversity on the land.

The Buchhaldehof farm in Rielasingen has experimented with different maize undersown crops, the manager of the Grenzhof restaurant in Heidelberg, also active in the project as a farmer, has enriched a potato field with strips for beneficial insects and created an agroforestry system by planting speierling and wild service tree on an arable field. The Haghof farm in Kirchheim am Neckar leaves part of a grassland meadow as a flowering area for insects. He has also planted old apple and pear species as young trees on a fruit tree meadow, which are not usually available to buy in shops. This benefits not only insects, but also little owls, for which the trees also provide a habitat.

### Biodiversity a topic for future farmers

The project also focuses on the next generation of farmers: Saskia Wolf and Christine Kewes introduced budding farmers to the topic of biodiversity and its importance, both directly in the fields of

a demonstration farm in Mühlingen (see report on page 10) and at the agricultural school in Bruchsal. Further (theory) training courses are planned for master farmer students in the district of Karlsruhe.

Experiences were passed on from farmer to farmer at various field days, advisors and certifiers were trained and

consumers were sensitised to the topic by the direct marketers in the project with an invitation to use the iNaturalist app.

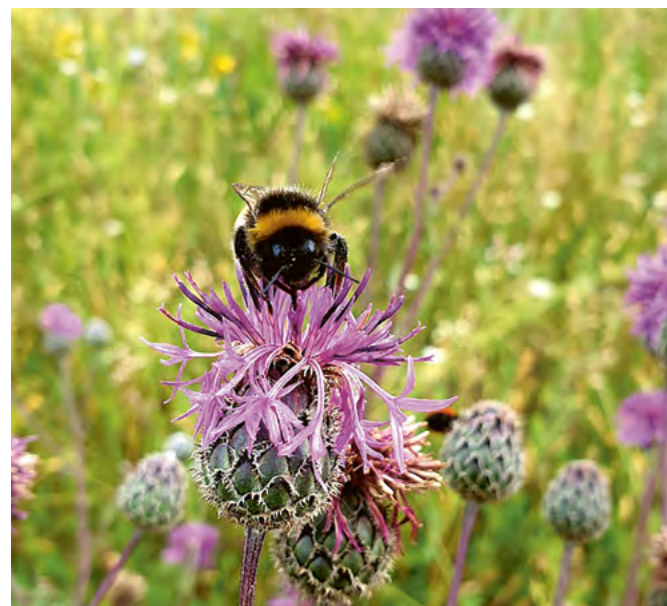
The impact of the measures is regularly monitored by experts and possible measures are presented in fact sheets on the project website. The project team was also able to publish its results

### Citizen science with the iNaturalist app

Anyone can support the „Insect-promoting regions“ project by using the free „iNaturalist“ app.

By photographing insects and uploading the pictures, the occurrence of certain species in the region can be recorded. The app itself makes suggestions for defining the species, which are then evaluated by experts.

The more users use the tool, the greater the knowledge about the distribution of certain species.



### Self-check for farmers: Biodiversity Performance Tool – Insects (BPTi)

Farmers can use the free online application BPTi to record the potential for biodiversity on their farms. In the online tool, they answer questions from several subject areas, for example:

- Habitats close to nature and protected areas (e.g. extent and maintenance)
- Agricultural practices (e.g. crop rotation, fertilisers and crop protection)
- Further training, cooperation and participation in projects

Farmers receive an evaluation in the form of a traffic light scheme. 81 indicators visualise which areas of their farm are already doing well from a biodiversity perspective and which should be improved from an insect perspective. Over several years of use, farmers can keep an eye on the development of their performance, improvements and deteriorations.



Link to the tool





The Romer fruit farm in Litzelstetten on Lake Constance is one of the six „model orchards for the promotion of biodiversity“ – and a regular destination for excursions.

in several specialist articles and present them at conferences. It was also possible to experience the results of the project through the senses: Heidelberger Grenzhof hosted a special harvest thanksgiving menu, with food and drink ranging from potatoes to wine from IFR demonstration farms.

More biodiversity in commercial fruit growing

While the IFR project supports land users in general, Sabine Sommer and Patrick Trötschler focussed on table fruit cultivation in the project „Model orchards to promote biodiversity“ with partners. It was funded by the Ministry of Food, Rural Areas and Consumer Protection and was completed in autumn 2023 after four project years.

The range of habitats and food plants for insects has been expanded in six model systems in Baden-Württemberg, which has also improved the conditions for many other animals. Monitoring of wild bees, grasshoppers, birds and herbaceous plants, which has been carried out since 2020, proves the success of the measures.

Information and training material available online

The experience gained has been compiled into training and information materials for agricultural fruit-growing specialized schools. Teachers can find documents on various topics both on the project website and on the state’s own Moodle platform. The training documents with methodological and didactic notes, information on literature and work assignments can be used in whole or in part. The six model plants are generally available to all interested parties as an excursion area.

Lake Constance Foundation develops points system for biodiversity services

Quality labels create transparency for the food industry and consumers. But how can biodiversity achievements in agriculture be measured, evaluated – and rewarded – in regional and EU quality programmes? Saskia Wolf and Patrick Trötschler have developed a points system for this with the Institute for Agroecology and Biodiversity (ifab), funded by the Ministry of Food, Rural Areas and Consumer Protection. The biodiversity point system was

Selection of recommendations for minimum standards in orchards for more biodiversity

- Anchor plants at the beginning and end of the rows of trees
- Alternating mulching (only every second tramline is mulched, at least 5 weeks apart)
- Reduced mulching (maximum of five mulching passes per year)
- Five to ten songbird nesting boxes per hectare of orchard
- Reduction of pesticides in the cultivation area
- Use of resistant/robust varieties
- Creation of annual and perennial flower strips/flowering areas at the edge of the site



More info



tested with 42 farms in 2023. It was presented to the state’s biodiversity advisors in autumn.

Following the development phase, the state of Baden-Württemberg has now approved the next two years of the project. The Lake Constance Foundation and ifab will technically implement the points system and introduce it into agricultural practice.

A great success for the Lake Constance Foundation combined with an exciting process.

Nationwide success story

The PRO PLANET biodiversity project was launched back in 2010 by the Lake Constance Foundation, Obst vom Bodensee Vertriebsgesellschaft mbH, REWE Group and the Tett nang-Friedrichshafen District Beekeepers’ Association. The motivation of the participating businesses, which are supported with nesting boxes and seeds for flower strips, for example, is also extremely high. 133 bus-



inesses planted 60 hectares of flowering strips, 50 hectares of which were annual and 14 hectares perennial mixtures. They planted 435 trees, shrubs and hedges and installed additional nesting aids for wild bees (100) and birds (315) in 2022.

The independent wild bee monitoring 2021 shows that the diversity of wild bees in the Lake Constance growing region has stabilised at a very high level: 112 wild bee species were counted – almost twice the number of species compared to the first monitoring in 2010. 26 of these species are considered to be endangered nationwide or are on the early warning list. The project has developed

into a nationwide success story and has also been transferred to other fruit-growing regions.

Biodiversity in the cultivation of bananas and pineapples

The commitment to biodiversity has an impact across continents: supported by the Lake Constance Foundation, the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Global Nature Fund, over 150 plantations in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic have developed a biodiversity action plan in the „Del Campo al Plato (CAP)“ project on the basis of a self-check. The measures that are now being implemented serve to protect existing habitats, connect them and establish buffer zones to protect water bodies in pineapple and banana cultivation. To this end, farmers were trained and supported during implementation. Particularly innovative ideas also received financial support. CAP also worked intensively with international standards.



150 plantations in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic are implementing a biodiversity action plan.





## More living space for little helpers

**The Altschorenhof farm in Mühlingen is involved in the „Insect-promoting regions“ project as a conventional farm.**

„Would the butterflies be here now if it weren't for the flower strip?“ asks Andreas Deyer in September, looking at a harvested field streaked with a band of blue and yellow flowers. Deyer runs the Altschorenhof farm with eleven employees – with 140 dairy cows and 150 hectares of arable and grassland. He is one of almost 60 demonstration farms in the „Insect-promoting regions“ project (see *biodiversity report page 6f*). By participating in the project, he wants to show what farmers are already doing to protect insects, and also have the effect of the measures tested. „And we want to try out what we can do beyond that,“ says Deyer.

### Valuable exchange between nature conservation and agriculture

Andreas Deyer appreciates the constructive cooperation between nature conservation and agriculture in the project. „It's exciting to be involved and to find viable ways forward in dialogue with everyone involved,“ says the farmer. For example, the IFR project has taught him a lot about which plants are attractive to which insects. On the other hand, he has learnt that the use of old grass strips – as originally planned in the project – is not interesting for him or his animals: „It just doesn't taste good,“ he says with a laugh, explaining that old grass impairs the taste of the silage. However, as he believes the measure makes sense, he now processes the old grass into compost.

The farmer is looking forward to the monitoring results. If they are convincing, he believes it is justified to realign the agricultural machinery technology accordingly. An attitude from a conventional farmer that may surprise some. „There are many nuances in conventional agriculture,“ says Andreas Deyer, District Chairman of the Baden Agricultural Association (BLHV) in Stockach. The majority of his colleagues are open to nature conservation issues. He himself has sown grass under spring barley in the past, as this type of

undersowing offers many advantages: As no tillage is necessary, no unnecessary CO<sub>2</sub> is released. The soil is better at holding water and the undersown crop provides nutrients and a habitat for soil organisms. „And now we're making sure that something blooms,“ is the lesson he learnt from the IFR project.

### Costs and additional expenditure

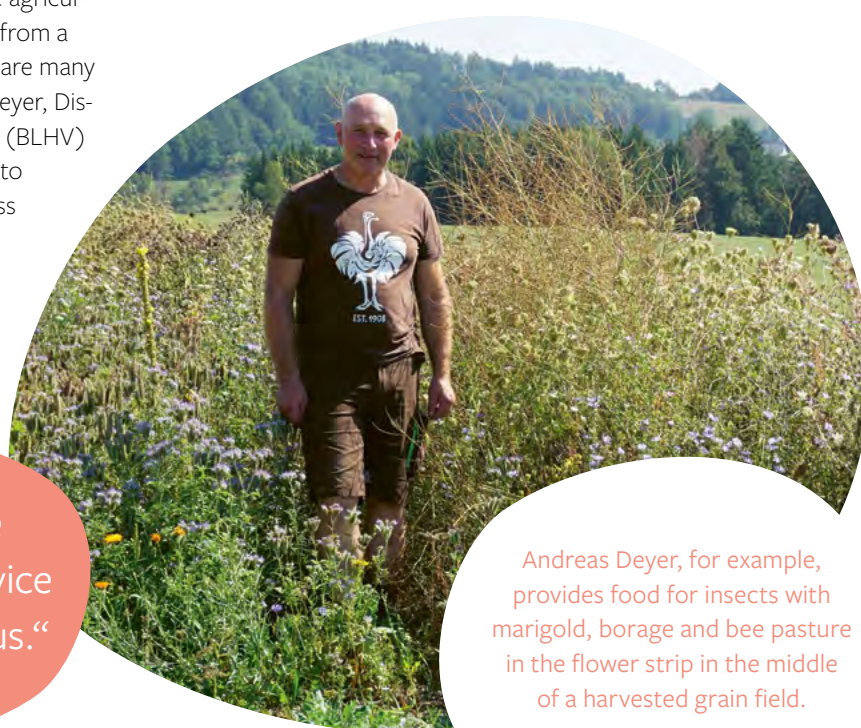
Biodiversity-promoting measures sometimes require more work and sometimes cost more money. However, Andreas Deyer believes that focussing on the costs would be too short-sighted, as insects are „an important service provider for our agriculture, as we live from and with nature.“ The aim of the project is therefore, on the one hand, to test innovative measures and, on the other, to communicate the project results to politicians and the food trade so that they realise framework conditions and support measures need to be reconsidered (see *the valorisation report on page 14f*).

### Biodiversity in agricultural education

Andreas Deyer heads the education committee for „green professions“ at the BLHV. The amendment of agricultural training programmes is currently being discussed. In addition to topics such as climate protection and the reduction of pesticides, biodiversity should also play a greater role, he announces. Projects such as „Insect-promoting regions“ contribute to this.

„Insects are important service providers for us.“

Andreas Deyer, for example, provides food for insects with marigold, borage and bee pasture in the flower strip in the middle of a harvested grain field.



## Agriculture in a dilemma: contributors and victims

### Support for agriculture in climate protection and climate change adaptation

Agriculture is the economic sector most affected by climate change worldwide. At the same time, it contributes significantly to the emission of climate-damaging gases. This is primarily due to methane emissions from livestock farming, nitrous oxide emissions from agricultural soils as a result of nitrogen fertilisation and the degeneration of peatland soils and the resulting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In order to remain fit for the future, farmers and their businesses must adapt to climate change as well as promote climate protection. The Lake Constance Foundation supports them in both challenges.

### Climate balancing of agricultural operations

There are currently several tools and methods for creating greenhouse gas (GHG) balances for agricultural businesses. The Lake Constance Foundation relies on the AgriClimateChangeTool (ACCT), which it co-developed itself, to provide farms with concrete assistance for climate-friendly production.

The software calculates the energy, nitrogen and greenhouse gas balance of an agricultural operation. Its strengths are the detailed analysis, the full transparency and traceability of the calculations and the manageable effort for users. Depending on the results of the analysis, a catalogue of measures is used to recommend, for example, the reduction of synthetic fertilisers, the improvement of the life performance of ruminants or the additional cultivation of catch crops.

Carolina Wackerhagen and Volker Kromrey have already trained numerous advisors from administration, agriculture and the food industry in the ACCT – including in 2023. The four-part training course in online format reaches interested parties between northern Germany, Switzerland and South Tyrol.

All training participants receive the latest ACCT version free of charge and are automatically part of the ACCT counselling network.

### Climate protection in dairy farming: cooperation with dairies

In recent years, the Lake Constance Foundation has focussed on dairy farms in order to support them in reducing GHG emissions. On the one hand, emissions of climate-damaging gases are particularly high there, on the other hand, the dairy processing industry shows a great deal of interest in climate protection and a willingness to take action.

The existing cooperation with the Champignon cheese dairy and five beacon businesses was continued in 2023.

**In order to achieve the greatest possible effect, the Lake Constance Foundation is working on several projects with cheese producers, dairies and also with the climate protection advisory services of the federal states and cantons.**

The companies have drawn up clear measure plans in individual consultations, but also as a group. At a project partner meeting, the effects of the operational climate protection measures implemented to date were presented using the ACC tool. The result: all farms have been able to reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and can be seen as beacon farms that serve as role models for the cheese dairy. The exchange between the farms, moderated and guided by the Lake Constance Foundation and organi-



### Region-specific climate forecasts at the click of a mouse

Climate changes can vary greatly from region to region. The free online application „CANARI“ allows agricultural actors to quickly, directly and easily create individual climate projections and immediately calculate agro-climatic indicators that are adapted to the various agricultural sectors and crops. CANARI (Climate ANALysis for Agricultural Recommendations and Impacts) thus enables the agricultural sector to incorporate climate change into the decision-making and production process. Together with partners in the AgriAdapt project on climate change adaptation in agriculture, the Lake Constance Foundation laid the foundations for the CANARI web application.

Further information: [canari-europe.com](https://canari-europe.com)



More info





sed and professionally supported by the Champignon cheese dairy, was rated as very beneficial by all participants.

The collaboration with private dairy Bechtel goes a step further: a „quick check“ based on the ACCT assessments is completed by more than 300 companies every year. It forms the foundation for the payment of a climate protection bonus (see interview on page 13).

### Climate protection in pig farming

While the Lake Constance Foundation previously focussed on agricultural cattle farming, the spectrum was expanded to include pig farming in 2023 with the „WertSchwein“ project. The aims of the EIP project (European Innovation Partnership) are to identify possible increases in the sustainability performance of regional pig farming, to develop a supply and contract system that honours sustainability, to network the existing databases along the value chain and to improve the image of regional supply chains. The Lake Constance Foundation is working together with the German Association of the Agricultural Industry (VdAW), the Boxberg State Centre for Pig Breeding



Grapes with a sunburn: Heat and intense sunshine can cause radiation damage to grapes.



(LSZ), the Nürtingen University of Applied Sciences (HfWU), companies along the pig supply chain and 20 agricultural pig farms.

The Lake Constance Foundation's work package comprised on-site data collection at 20 farms, the individual climate protection and biodiversity assessment based on this data and finally the development of measures that were proposed to the farms at the end of the year. Building on the results and experiences from the WertSchwein project, the Lake Constance Foundation is working with partners in the EIP project „SüdSchwein4Klima“ to develop a „quick climate check“ for pig farms. This check also enables the pig value chain to calculate GHG emissions and develop suitable reduction measures with a manageable amount of effort, similar to the procedure in the dairy industry.

### Climate protection in the network

The Lake Constance Foundation is represented in numerous working groups and committees. The THEKLa network is a nationwide association of experts on climate protection in agriculture. In 2023, the expert group on GHG accounting for dairy cattle was founded under the leadership of the Thünen Institute. The Agricultural Climate Consultancy Working Group focuses on the practical exchange between climate protection consultants. The Lake Constance Foundation continues to be in demand in the BEK working group (calculation standard for individual farm climate balances) as well as on the expert advisory boards of various climate

protection projects from Nestlé, Lidl and the private dairy Bechtel. Team members are also regularly asked to speak at conferences and webinars.

**What is important about this commitment is, on the one hand, networking with other competent players and, on the other hand, continuous further training and exchange with science and practice.**

### Climate change adaptation: 15 competences for sustainable viticulture

Climate change poses very different challenges for wine-growing regions in Europe – from rising temperatures to increasing drought. In the face of climate change and climate protection demands, employees in the industry are confronted with new qualification requirements.

In the „Green Vineyards“ project, Dr Kerstin Fröhle and Andreas Ziermann are working with partners in France, Italy, North Macedonia and Spain to identify these requirements and work out how the necessary skills can be taught in training and further education. Halfway through the two-and-a-half-year project, the team has published a guide to the knowledge, skills and abilities required by those working in viticulture in 2023. They have developed 15 competences that they consider to be particularly crucial for the wine sector. Preparations were also made for a corresponding (online) education and training programme, which is to be made freely accessible in 2024.

## INTERVIEW

# Milk producers strive for best values

**The Bavarian private dairy Bechtel has agreed to a five-year cooperation with the Lake Constance Foundation to support its milk suppliers in reducing greenhouse gases.**

A „quick check“ was jointly developed to supplement the ACCT assessments (AgriClimateChangeTool, see report on page 11). Each participating farm receives climate points based on around 20 parameters. This quick check is completed by more than 300 farms every year. It forms the basis for the payment of a climate protection bonus. The bonus programme of private dairy Bechtel takes into account and rewards animal welfare in addition to climate protection. This makes it the first bonus system that directly combines climate protection and animal welfare and pays out a bonus of up to 6 cents per litre of milk. **Georg Müller, Head of Strategic Merchandise Management at private dairy Bechtel, in a brief interview:**

### What motivates you to support your suppliers in reducing greenhouse gases and improving animal welfare?

Climate protection and animal welfare are both very topical issues for society as a whole. As a company in the food industry, we are aware of our social responsibility. With this in mind, we have set ourselves ambitious goals in terms of animal welfare and climate protection. In order to achieve these self-imposed goals, we are in close dialogue with both our milk producers and our customers. At the milk producer level, we promote the achievement of both high animal welfare targets and highly climate-efficient milk production through a surcharge on the milk price. At the same time, we offer our customers an interesting added value that is demanded by consumers.

In the programme we have initiated, we deliberately combine the topics of animal welfare and climate protection and take great care to ensure that one topic does not come at the expense of the other.

### What goals have you set yourself and how does the Lake Constance Foundation support you in achieving them?

As private dairy Bechtel, we are a member of the global Science Based Target Initiative (SBTI). Within this framework, we set ourselves jointly defined targets together with our producers. In the area of animal welfare, this is the achievement of the currently valid husbandry form 4 or 3. In the area of climate protection, our specific goal is to significantly reduce

GHG emissions in milk production by 25% by 2025 compared to the initial intake in 2020. We specifically audit the farms participating in the programme and collect the necessary data for the climate assessment. Each farm receives an individual evaluation of the status of its operation. A strengths/weaknesses analysis is carried out, and specific measures are proposed that contribute to the achievement of targets in the areas of animal welfare and climate protection. We work closely with the Lake Constance Foundation to analyse GHG emissions. Our many years of international and national experience with the recognised ACCT accounting tool were decisive for this.

### What is the feedback from the companies? And how has the programme been received by your customers?

The programme we offer on animal welfare and climate protection has been very well received by milk producers. In our view, clear practical endeavours can be seen here to further develop individual farms in a targeted manner. In the area of animal welfare, for example,

numerous farms are striving for the highest level of husbandry type 4 with DLG Gold. The participating farms are also endeavouring to improve every year in the area of climate protection. One can literally observe an internal competition between the participants to achieve the best results.

For us as private dairy Bechtel, the aim is to lead as many farms as possible to high standards in the areas of animal welfare and climate protection. At present, the number of participants far exceeds our expectations. With the programme we have initiated, we are focusing on helping people to sustain themselves, and are supporting the farms both financially and by providing specific advice and support for improvement measures. This objective and specific approach is also highly recognised by our customers.

**Georg Müller**  
Head of Strategic Merchandise  
Management at private dairy  
Bechtel







## Biodiversity and climate protection should pay off for agriculture

**The Lake Constance Foundation is working towards better valorisation and is making proposals for more attractive funding programmes.**

„More climate protection and more nature conservation on my land is possible, but only if someone pays me for it.“ This or something similar is how the justified objections of farmers sound when the Lake Constance Foundation advises farms or calls for participation in projects. Commitment to climate and biodiversity protection must be appropriately rewarded in order to incentivise implementation – all the more so in times of high production costs.

**In the long term, agriculture can only contribute to food security where farms remain economically profitable and biodiversity is preserved and promoted at the same time.**

In its projects, the Lake Constance Foundation is committed to the valorisation of measures for the protection of the climate and biodiversity on two levels: it makes proposals for public funding programmes and their revision. It also is in close communication with the food industry to ensure that producers' efforts pay off.

### Adjusting screw food industry

The food sector in particular is urgently dependent on slowing down climate change, biodiversity and the preservation of ecosystem services. Even if only a small proportion of customers in Germany are still willing to pay more for traditionally very affordable food, companies, out of their own interest, must not leave agriculture to fend for itself. Biodiversity and climate protection should be worthwhile for agriculture.

The Lake Constance Foundation is working towards better valorisation and is making proposals for more attractive funding programmes. Purchasers and product managers must understand and honour nature conservation much more strongly as a fundamental quality feature. Policymakers are also increasingly setting corresponding framework conditions, for example with the regulation for deforestation-free supply chains and the EU directive on corporate sustainability reporting (CSRD), which also require the food sector to take action. There are various aspects of valorisation for the food industry: biodiversity for image cultivation, customer loyalty and new customer acquisition or the development of new sales channels, as well as concepts for premium marketing by making the services visible and transparent for consumers. To this end, the Lake Constance Foundation has developed special training modules and training materials

for the sector, which are increasingly being requested and utilised by companies, associations and further education providers in the food industry.

**The topic of biodiversity is now part of the examination content for the next generation at the Food academy Neuwied, the federal technical college for the food trade.**

At the centre is the question: What contribution can food retailers make to promoting biodiversity? To this end, various labels and standards were analysed, possibilities for influencing the regional product range were illustrated and opportunities for customer advice and advertising were highlighted.

Employees of the Lake Constance Foundation were also present at various

### Food for Biodiversity Association

**For a good ten years, the Lake Constance Foundation has been working with an increasing number of partners and companies to ensure that the protection of biodiversity is firmly anchored in the food industry and its upstream value chains.**

The founding of the „Food for Biodiversity“ association by representatives from standards, food companies, agriculture, scientific institutions and NGOs such as the Lake Constance Foundation in 2021 was a significant milestone. Today, „Food for Biodiversity“ is an important cross-stakeholder platform with currently **29 members** in order to put ambitious methods and criteria for more biodiversity into practice and to get sustainable and future-proof food systems off the ground. With Edeka, Kaufland, Lidl, Nestlé and the REWE Group, the Lake Constance Foundation sits at the same table as heavyweights in the food industry.

[food-biodiversity.de](https://food-biodiversity.de)



More info



Biodiversity experts exchanged ideas at the PRO-PLANET summer meeting – here on a sample orchard near Frankfurt (Oder).

national and international conferences in 2023 to present possible instruments – from the national conference „Biodiversity in the Food Sector“ in Frankfurt to the European Business & Nature Summit in Milan and the „Cool Farm Annual Delegate Meeting“ in England.

### Adjusting screw for public funding programmes

The second approach concerns public funding programmes. The Lake Constance Foundation is working in various projects on proposals for revisions and new concepts. How can the EU's Common Agricultural Policy or state programmes such as FAKT (support programme for agri-environment, climate protection and animal welfare) and LPR (Agricultural Care Directive) be redesigned so that farms can provide more environmental and nature conservation services and benefit more from them? The research project „CAP4GI – CAP for diverse landscapes“ (Common Agricultural Policy for Green Infrastruc-

### Tool for the assessment of biodiversity services

**With the Biodiversity Monitoring System (BMS), the Lake Constance Foundation has developed a tool that enables standards and food companies as well as producer groups and associations to monitor the biodiversity performance of certified farms, supplying farmers or member farms.**

The monitoring system records 107 key figures that flow into 41 main indicators. These indicators are highly relevant for the protection and creation of potential for biodiversity and the reduction of negative impacts. Some of the data that farmers enter into the Biodiversity Performance Tool (see page 7) can be transferred to the BMS.

ture) is looking for answers to these questions. And does so by being in close dialogue with farmers.

To this end, Carolina Wackerhagen and Christine Kewes organised several platform meetings in the Hohenlohe, northern Upper Rhine and Lake Constance regions in 2023. Project partners exchanged ideas with farmers in Thuringia. At the first event of this kind,

the main obstacles to implementing measures under the existing funding programmes were identified (e.g. insufficient remuneration, rigid requirements and lack of flexibility, bureaucracy or the risk of sanctions associated with implementation). In a second meeting, the focus was on proposing solutions to the aforementioned obstacles and working on a new funding programme.



# Nature & Lake Conservation

Experience, love and protect nature:  
We bring citizens closer to their local  
nature and its diversity, showing through  
our projects how to preserve it.



## Mire soils – speeding up the rewetting process

Climate crisis or biodiversity crisis – which is more urgent? Instead of dwelling on this and similar questions, we simply need to work on both at the same time and do our best to stop them or at least slow them down considerably. Where better to do this than with peatlands and peat soils? The rewetting of these soils, which are currently being used for agriculture on a massive scale throughout Germany – as grassland or even arable land – must be given a high priority. And not just among die-hard conservationists, who have been calling for peatland protection for decades, but in society as a whole and in agriculture in particular.

Worldwide, peatlands store more CO<sub>2</sub> than our forests, and there is huge additional potential in rewetting them. Rewetting peatlands means a massive reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and, in the medium term, even the active storage of carbon from the atmosphere. At the same time, adapted utilisation also has a noticeably positive impact on biodiversity, although this always depends on the current use.

The fact is that previous land use in Germany in the form of intensive grassland or arable farming with heavy machinery and the use of farm manure is not compatible with raising the groundwater table. Many farmers depend on the land to earn their income. In the past, they have therefore steadfastly resisted renaturalisation plans that were intended to take these areas out of cultivation. The experience of recent decades has shown that we are not making fast enough progress under these conditions. Renaturalisation projects in the „old style“ take decades, and often the plans fail. Mire researcher Hans

Joosten from the University of Greifswald is calling for 50,000 hectares of rewetted land per year in order to achieve the 1.5 degree target – but these or similar demands can only be realised together with agriculture, and this requires adapted utilisation concepts. Rewetted peatland can also be utilised and be an important source of income for farmers. We urgently need to establish marketing structures for paludicultures, and prohibitions on peatland PV must also be dismantled. If these utilisations can make a significant contribution to the income of farms, high-quality nature conservation projects can also be implemented in areas that are particularly worthy of protection. On average, climate protection, nature conservation and agriculture all benefit together.

At the Lake Constance Foundation, we will work intensively in the coming years to promote such utilisation concepts and work together with farmers, local authorities and nature conservation organisations to implement them in practice. This requires the development and promotion of marketing structures as well as the establishment of adapted uses. So, there is a lot to do, and the Lake Constance Foundation will utilise its diverse experience in cooperation with the relevant stakeholders to this end.

*Volker Kromrey, Managing Director and Programme Manager, Nature and water protection*





# Global lake conservation: From Lake Constance to all continents

**Lakes around the world suffer from similar problems. The Lake Constance Foundation contributes its expertise to international networks.**

Whether it's Lake Titicaca in Peru, Lake Albufera in Spain or Lake Malawi between Mozambique, Malawi and Tanzania, water bodies are under pressure. The discharge of inadequately treated wastewater, overuse, intensive agriculture, loss of species and, last but not least, climate change with its many effects are threatening our freshwater reservoirs. They are exemplary for hundreds of lakes and wetlands worldwide. Since its establishment, the Lake Constance Foundation has been committed to water protection – locally in the four-country region of Lake Constance and at an international level.

## 25 years of the Living Lakes Network

The Lake Constance Foundation was a founding member in 1998, and now the international Living Lakes network is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Today, 135 organisations are committed to the protection and renaturation of 113 lakes and wetlands. The anniversary was an opportunity to take stock and look ahead, in early 2023 in Germany, at the World Lakes Conference on Lake Balaton in Hungary in November. The conclu-

sion: problems, solutions and necessary technologies are known. Nevertheless, implementation is slow, which is why the Lake Constance Foundation and the network are calling for a „World Lake Day“ to raise awareness and urgently demand stricter framework conditions and a UN fund for lake protection and renaturalisation from politicians.

The Lake Constance Foundation also provides very practical assistance: For example, it has supported the Nagenahiru Foundation in Sri Lanka in developing a strategy for the development of „community eco-tourism“, i.e. tourist offers from the local population, at the two lakes in the south of the country.

## Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project

The „Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate project“, which is funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Republic of Germany, has started with initial concrete successes. Ten committed partners in ten lake regions in South America, Africa and Asia are involved – as well as the Fundación

Global Nature and the Lake Constance Foundation as communication experts and input providers. The Global Nature Fund is responsible for the overall coordination of the project.

**„We have the necessary knowledge and technologies. We know why wetlands are being destroyed and we have the solutions. There is a lack of political will to focus on lakes and their restoration and to provide the necessary investment.“**

*Marion Hammerl, Senior Expert Lake Constance Foundation*

The focus is on sharing new techniques and methods and learning from each other across borders. The experienced local partner organisations work with people involved in management tasks as well as with agriculture and fisheries. The aim is to improve their practices in order to have a positive impact on the lake as an ecosystem and water reservoir and also to enable them to better adapt to the consequences of climate change. Furthermore, farmers and fishermen should be able to make a better living from more sustainable production.

Learning from and inspiring each other – this was possible during the study trip to the Philippines as part of the Living Lakes biodiversity and climate project.



The idyll is deceptive. Lakes and wetlands around the world – like here in the Philippines – are under pressure.

The project supports frontrunner initiatives that develop transferable solutions to problems. A fund is also available to support other organisations that want to adopt these measures in their regions. One focus of the project is on training 50 young people in a trainee programme to become future leaders in nature conservation and environmental protection. This includes Sustainable Leadership Journeys, such as to the Candaba Wetlands and Laguna de Bay in the Philippines in autumn 2023. For the participants, including Managing Director of the Lake Constance Foundation Volker Kromrey, the intensive exchange between young professionals and experts from the pro-

ject partners as well as mutual inspiration was key. The virtual Living Lakes Academy gives lake conservationists worldwide access to project materials, studies, publications and positive examples. The Lake Constance Foundation provides support in the form of expertise, experience and ideas.

## ELLA European Living Lakes Association

The European Living Lakes Association „ELLA e.V.“ brings together civil society organisations for the protection and sustainable use of aquatic ecosystems and the associated biodiversity. The Lake

Constance Foundation contributed its expertise on agriculture and biodiversity in 2023. For example, it trained (primarily tourism) companies in the application of the Biodiversity Check (see page 35) so that they can implement measures in their lake regions (primarily Lake Balaton in Hungary, Peipsi in Estonia, Lake Constance and Spanish wetlands).

In October, Fundación Global Nature and the Lake Constance Foundation organised a workshop on the biodiversity footprint, the potential for financing the restoration of lakes and wetlands by companies and the new Act4Water standard.



The discharge of inadequately treated wastewater, overuse, intensive agriculture, species loss and, last but not least, climate change with its many effects are threatening freshwater reservoirs.

The Living Lakes network now has 135 members representing 113 lakes. The photo shows a project employee travelling in Sri Lanka.





Dimitri Vedel, project coordinator of „Blue Lakes“, shows the lake paper that the Lake Constance Foundation is using to invite neighbouring municipalities on Lake Constance to sign.

The Lake Constance Foundation advises and supports interested municipalities in the selection and implementation of measures to avoid microplastics.

### Small particles, big danger: microplastics in freshwaters

The EU Life Project Blue Lakes to reduce microplastic discharges into lakes has come to an end after four years, but the problem has not. While the project partners were travelling to the final conference in Rome, the EU Commission announced a regulation under which the sale of products that release microplastics will be successively banned.

The ray of hope was immediately clouded in November 2023: the plastic waste conference with 170 countries in Nairobi ended without results. The forecast of the „Back to Blue“ initiative, according to which plastic consumption in the leading industrialised and emerging countries (G20) will almost double by the middle of this century without further legally binding countermeasures, therefore seems plausible.

The Lake Constance Foundation will therefore continue to work on this topic. The project team with Gertrud Nußbaum, Marion Hammerl and Dimitri Vedel has built up a close-knit network and specialist expertise over the past few years. In the German-Italian pro-

ject, measures were presented on how to reduce the proven pollution in lakes and rivers and what municipalities in particular can do to achieve this. The Lake Constance Foundation has developed a bundle of recommendations for action, from a low-threshold start, e.g. with a „plastic-free weekly market“, to the installation of a fourth purification stage in sewage treatment plants. Interested municipalities are advised and supported in the selection and implementation of measures and invited to sign a lake paper.

Another project measure was to raise awareness among European cosmetics, outdoor clothing and tyre manufacturers. More than 250 companies were informed about the risks of microplastics in connection with their products. The Lake Constance Foundation also focussed on the volume of plastic in agriculture and suitable collection and recycling systems. The project activities were varied: project coordinator Dimitri Vedel presented the problem at the world's largest water sports and boat show „boot Düsseldorf“ and supported pupils in Ulm in their project work. With his suggestions, the school organised a clean-up along the River Iller. At the end

of April, a training course for employees of local authorities, sewage treatment plants and wastewater associations was held at the University of Marche in Ancona. Various methods for treating wastewater were presented here in order to detect microplastics.

While the topic may still seem far away to some, as microplastics are more of a problem in the oceans, the media response was nevertheless huge. Print and radio picked up on the topic, and the Lake Constance Foundation was and is increasingly being asked to give talks and organise information events. The Lake Constance Foundation has thus succeeded in establishing microplastics as an issue on Lake Constance and raising awareness of the issue.

## The first hotel guests have already arrived

### Flower Kids make school gardens home to butterflies and wild bees.

In the workroom at Beethoven School in Singen at Hohen- twiel, Aiden and Ali-Noah saw bamboo poles into sticks of the same length. Outside, Ajna and Nina point to the raised beds in the school garden: „Here we have onions, pumpkins, courgettes and sugar snap peas, over by the fence we have currants and blackberries.“

The young gardeners know: In order for the courgettes, the berry bushes and the cherry tree in the school garden, to bear fruit, they need little helpers for fertilisation, pollinating insects. Their performance, their preferred habitat and their needs so that they can perform their valuable service – the children learnt all this in the „Flower Kids“ project.

### „I’m taking a closer look now“

The idea behind Flower Kids is that children develop a sensitivity for nature conservation through direct experience of nature. The special thing about it: The pupils have not learnt the prerequisites for a good insect life in theory in the classroom, but have created them through their own actions.

### Flower Kids

Children between the ages of eight and 13 can also be trained as „Flower Kids“ in the future.

Interested educational institutions or children's and youth facilities that are interested in the programme can contact Saskia Wolf: [saskia.wolf@bodensee-stiftung.org](mailto:saskia.wolf@bodensee-stiftung.org)

„When children explore something on their own and discover connections, the findings become firmly anchored in their consciousness,“ says Saskia Wolf, an expert in sustainability education.

„I always see flowers on my way home. Now I take a closer look,“ says Ali-Noah, as if in confirmation. He had already noticed them in the last school year, but now he is interested in whether bees or butterflies stop off on the flowers.

**„When children explore something on their own and discover connections, the findings become anchored in their consciousness.“**

*Saskia Wolf, Project Manager Environment, Nature Conservation and Sustainability Education*

Together with teacher Julia Kolb, Saskia Wolf chose the topics of diversity and pollinating insects for the six-month project, as, apart from the honey bee, these are still often ignored by the general public. From February to July, the eleven pupils from the third and fourth grades who opted to take part in the afternoon gardening club learnt about their enormous importance for nature and food production. It was important to Saskia Wolf that the children were able to see, hear, feel and explore for themselves in order to answer questions such as „What colours and shapes do flowers have? Which insects fly where? What differences can we discover on a surface?“ Discovery games, handicrafts and even working in the garden were teaching methods.



The pupils have learnt about the services of pollinating insects in the gardening club at Singen's Beethoven School. Under the guidance of Saskia Wolf (right) from the Lake Constance Foundation and teacher Julia Kolb (third from left), they created an insect hotel and flower strips in the school garden.





Ali Noah (left) and Aiden (right) provide the interior of the insect hotel with bamboo tubes they have sawn themselves.



And sawing was also part of it. As part of the project, the Flower Kids created the interior of their insect hotel – and have already welcomed their first guests. With the hollow bamboo tubes, the pupils provide the insects with a natural place to lay their eggs. The children have sown seeds of native wild herbs and planted perennials along the fence of the school garden. „We mixed the seeds well with sand beforehand, which made it easier to sow them evenly,“ says Ajna, looking at the flowering strip.

Her teacher Julia Kolb also got involved outside of the classroom and took care of the insect paradise with evening watering. Student Ajna now looks at the garden with satisfaction and says: „I think it's a very nice place.“

## My forest, your forest, our forest

**What conflicts are there between forest users – and how can they be avoided or defused? A project is trialling communication concepts.**

Going for a late-night run in the forest with a headlamp? This is not unusual in the district of Miesbach. Here, locals like to switch to off-peak times to avoid hiking tourists. It's not just cities like Venice that suffer from visitor pressure: the forest is also „overcrowded“ in some places.

This example is one of four areas of conflict that the Lake Constance Foundation is analysing with partners in the „We in the forest“ project. The aim of the three-year project is to work out by summer 2025 which communicative concepts can be used to defuse or avoid confrontations between different forest users.

**„We in the Forest“ deals with the following conflicts in the project regions:**

- **Cyclists in the forest:** Conflicts between cyclists and other recreational users (Freiburg city forest)
- **Forest visitors and forest management:** Attractive forest design/forest aesthetics and acceptance of forestry measures (Rothaarsteig in the Hochsauerland district)
- **High number of visitors:** destruction and/or disturbance of flora and fauna (district of Miesbach)
- **Disregard of rules, lack of understanding and proportionality** (Rangsdorfer See/Teltow-Fläming district)



In 2023, the project partners defined the conflicts and four corresponding project regions to be analysed. This was preceded by a nationwide survey with around 4,700 participants, half of whom were forest users from sport and tourism and the other half stakeholders from forestry and nature conservation. This allowed to collect prototypical conflict types and drivers of conflicts in the forest.

**„Forestry and tourism are pillars of the Sauerland economy with a long tradition. At the same time, the cooperation is not always conflict-free. We are delighted to be developing prospects for a successful future together with the ‚Wir im Wald‘ project on a section of the Rothaarsteig.“**

*Frank Rosenkranz, Head of the Upper Sauerland Forestry Office*

The Lake Constance Foundation discussed the experiences gathered with experts in focus groups, with members of the various user groups who each have many years of experience in their area of action. The clustering and definition of areas of conflict was followed by research into possible example regions that would be interested in collaborating in the project.

Many discussions, a lot of research and on-site appointments are and were necessary in order to measure and understand the respective conflict situation. This also includes the collection of trail data, forest inventory data and information on recreational infrastructures, visitor counts and surveys. In addition, the role of media in the emergence and management of conflicts in the forest is analysed in each region based on an analysis of media coverage.

In the project, the Lake Constance Foundation is entrusted with the selection, recording and mapping of the various events in the Hochsauerland and Miesbach regions.

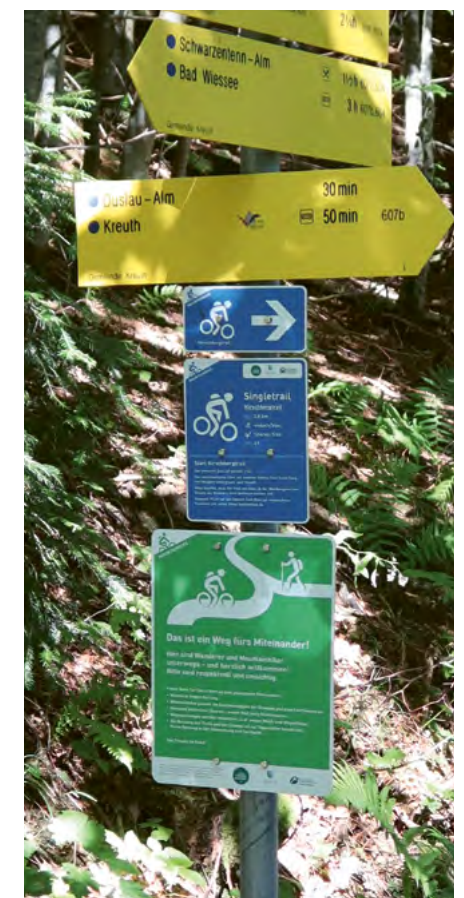
**New communication concepts are being developed**

Students at Stuttgart Media University (HdM) will develop communication concepts based on the data collected. The aim is to test means of deliberative communication. In other words, active dialogue and participation processes involving all user groups will be used to achieve mutual understanding and, accordingly, solutions that suit everyone.

The central question here is which aspects and channels can promote and consolidate the solution-oriented

Forest of signposts in the forest: The signposts of various institutions are an indication of the different groups of recreation seekers who can get in each other's way (below).

In addition, aspects of forest management can conflict with the aesthetic perception of recreationists (left).



dialogue so that concrete but generally valid recommendations for action can be made at the end of the project.

In the Freiburg region, all project steps have already been completed for the conflict topic „Cycling in the forest“. The HdM students have developed concepts for communication on various channels such as social media, website, YouTube, press releases and local events.



# Energy transition

We advise various stakeholders on their contribution to the implementation of the energy transition. We focus on nature conservation in the energy transition, acceptance and participation, social innovation, technology promotion and resource management.



Profit? Morality? Or concern for your grandchildren?  
No matter what motivates you – the importance is that  
the energy transition succeeds quickly!

The vineyard is particularly beautiful in autumn. The sun is warming and the leaves are colourful. Anyone who goes for a walk there is happy and enjoys it. It's similar with the energy transition. In an ideal world solar systems, wind turbines or huge heart pumps work, and private households hang up their own PV modules on the balcony. And if, the speed limit is applied on German "Autobahn" we could sit back and enjoy lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

CO<sub>2</sub>? What do I gain from less CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere? More air to breathe? Unfortunately, no, but perhaps an environment worth living in for future generations.

However, the willingness to do something for the energy transition often depends on maximising one's own benefits. If the bill for heating oil or gas becomes more expensive year after year, people quickly look for a favourable alternative. Perhaps a heat pump? If the electricity from your own roof for the battery in your electric car is cheaper than a full tank of petrol, the PV system is worth it and the advantages of electromobility are invoked.

The willingness to invest decreases, if the benefit is for the tenants. And if the local authority wants to switch to e-buses or investments in rail infrastructure is urgent, in many cases this will be prevented, rejected or not done at all because of the costs.

The much-vaunted joint effort for the energy transition is falling by the wayside. So how do we want to proceed in times of empty state coffers and a lack of personal motivation? The

reallocation of available federal Covid-funds to the climate fund was prevented as not being in line with the constitution. German politicians are good at conjuring up an emergency situation that jeopardises Germany as a business location, but there is a lack of recognition of an emergency situation for the energy transition. It is paradoxical.

„Put the pressure on!“ is the order of the day for some. Others are still in favour of reaching out to all those who are still not doing anything. However, the encouraging is that nothing needs to be reinvented for the energy transition. All the tools are available and can be applied immediately. Even vested interests and harmony-driven wishful thinking, such as the combination of PV and agriculture, could be catered for.

Unluckily that will not be enough to be fast, efficient and economical. Let's be honest and make the energy transition in our own personal interest, for the sake of our wallets, CO<sub>2</sub> or the next generation, the main motivation is almost irrelevant. But let's do it unconditionally and with the only lowest common denominator that it has to happen quickly, no, faster.

Enjoy the following reading tour through our energy transition field of action and find the motivation you need to realise your contribution to the energy transition. Do it and tell us about it. You read about us and we want to hear from you!

*Dimitri Vedel, Programme Manager Energy Transition*





# Renewable energies on the upswing – but time is running out

**Advising local authorities, citizens and companies: A typical day shows how the Lake Constance Foundation supports the local energy and heating transition:**

8:45

## Review of the mayors' meeting: Breakthrough in the heat transition

„How did it go yesterday?“ project manager Immanuel wants to know from Dimitri. At the mayors' meeting in the district of Tuttlingen, the programme manager motivated smaller municipalities to tackle municipal heat planning, even if it's not mandatory yet. „There has been some movement,“ says Dimitri happily: „Municipalities want to form ‚convoys‘ in order to develop a concept together.“

Perseverance, presence on site and the many discussions behind the scenes have paid off. The heating plan is the basis for sustainable urban development. Together with the Energy Agency of the region Schwarzwald-Baar-Heuberg (SBH), the Lake Constance Foundation advises local authorities on their individual planning. The project partners provide information on funding opportunities, required engineering services and the involvement of administrations and citizens.

10:00

## Online meeting with project partners: The conceptualisation of cross-trade training on solar green roof combinations begins.

Daniela and Dimitri review the ceremonial handover of the funding decision in Stuttgart by Minister Dr Nicole Hoffmeister-Kraut. The training project is funded by the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism along with five other innovative measures for a sustainable construction industry. The project partners, the Baden-Württemberg State Guild Association of Roofers, the Bundesverband GebäudeGrün e. V. (BuGG), the Karlsruhe Chamber of Crafts' Training Academy and the Ulm Chamber of Crafts' „WBZU“ training centre for innovative energy technologies, are now working on the specific details.

Multifunctional roofs that are greened and equipped with photovoltaic modules are an important element for adapting urban districts to climate change. They improve the microclimate through planting and support the energy transition with solar power.



Minister of Economic Affairs and Labour Dr Nicole Hoffmeister-Kraut (centre) handed over the approval for the education project GeWeGe@skills.BW to the project managers of the Lake Constance Foundation Dimitri Vedel, focusing on the energy transition, and Daniela Dietsche, focusing on biodiversity (right).

Fruit under power: PV modules above orchards not only produce energy, but also protect against hail and sunburn.



The „GeWeGe@skills.BW“ trainings focuses on all interfaces to ensure that the green roof can be realised without complications, from planning to installation of the PV system. It is designed for electrical installers, gardeners and landscapers, roofers, energy consultants, planners and local authority managers.

The interdisciplinary nature of the training reflects the cross-field collaboration at the Lake Constance Foundation: Daniela contributes her expertise in biodiversity, Linda and Dimitri theirs in the energy transition.

11:30

## Call from Landsiedlung Baden-Württemberg: Good news on the subject of agri- and moorland PV

The regional PV network Schwarzwald-Baar-Heuberg is coordinated by the Lake Constance Foundation. The LCF supports the town of Villingen-Schwenningen in the combination of agri-PV and moorland. An area has now been successfully designated. It can also serve as a reference area for the introduction of peatland PV. Photovoltaics on moorland is still rare, but offers many opportunities: the rewetted areas store CO<sub>2</sub> and provide green energy via PV.

**„As Lake Constance Foundation, we have a focus on ongoing research to improve the perspective of agriculture on peatland PV.“**

*Dimitri Vedel, Lake Constance Foundation*

In addition, the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Agriculture has commissioned the Lake Constance Foundation to draw up an orientation guide for agricultural businesses interested in the installation PV on moorland. Also, the Lake Constance Foundation supports Solar industry companies with its expertise on how solar parks can achieve added value with agri-PV from a nature conservation perspective.

12:15

## Lunch break with discussion: Is ground-mounted PV in competition with food production?

The topic of agrivoltaics and Solar parks and the public debate on the subject are also a concern for colleagues. The discussion focuses on the apparent competition for land use between agriculture and energy transition.

**„Without large solar parks, the energy transition will not succeed.“**

*Dimitri Vedel, Lake Constance Foundation*

Colleagues from the LCF field of action of Business and Biodiversity agree with Dimitri and point out the options for biodiversity-promoting measures in ground-mounted PV systems. And solar parks are much more efficient in the energy output compared to energy crops grown for the operation of biogas plants. These areas are indeed lost to food production.







Hardly any farmer would give up productive farmland, add colleagues from the Agriculture and Food sector. They point out the possibilities of agrivoltaics systems. Nevertheless these systems may be niches for the energy transition, but could offer farmers additional income opportunities.

13:00

### Team meeting: The energy transition as topic for adult education centres

The Schwarzwald-Baar-Heuberg region ranks third place in the Baden-Württemberg Solar expansion. How can private household support the expansion and benefit directly? This will be the subject of various presentations at adult education centres in the region.

Dimitri will focus on home PV systems such as balcony power plants, while Immanuel will provide information on „PV legislation for house builders and the obligation to install PV-systems“ and sector coupling. The adult education centres are happy to include these topics in their programmes. Dimitri and Immanuel have plenty of experience and have also offered presentations in cooperation with chambers of trade and industry and chambers of commerce and know how to get listeners' attention.



14:15

### Update in the coffee kitchen of Deutsche Umwelthilfe: Support for the solar campaign

In the coffee kitchen of Environmental Action Germany (DUH) in the neighbouring corridor, the Energy Transition team meets Rupert Wronski, deputy head of municipal environmental protection at DUH.

Reason for an update on the collaboration: The Lake Constance Foundation is contributing its expertise to DUH's Solar Offensive and Balcony Solar projects. Immanuel supports them in accelerating the expansion of PV and increasing the accessibility of PV for citizens.

He also supports DUH in comparing citizen energy concepts in Europe and how these can be transferred to German conditions. The aim is to develop strategies for using community energy in large-scale projects. The Lake Constance Foundation was involved in planning the first congress on the topic of energy sharing, which took place at the beginning of July 2023 with a large number of participants.

The aim is to develop strategies for using community energy to involve people in large-scale projects.



15:00

### Strategy meeting: Which projects can support the energy transition at national and EU level?

The energy transition team discusses new project outlines. What topics can the Lake Constance Foundation contribute to in order to develop and test scalable solutions? What is a substantial contribution to the energy transition in Germany and Europe?

For instance, energy communities: they do not exist in the Germany. that's why Germany has not implemented the EU directive (RED II) on the introduction of energy communities to the electricity market. How have other EU countries managed to do this? Austria was one of the first countries in Europe. Austria now ensures that citizens have access to cheap renewable electricity and that the municipal electricity grids are relieved.

The team discusses which technical requirements will be important for the energy transition in the future. Electricity storage is essential. This opens up new fields of activity, especially for municipal utilities and community energy cooperatives. The Lake Constance Foundation can help to realise this idea. Organising an exchange, describing the technical requirements and finding good examples could be elements in the new application with the European partners.

17:00

### Change of location: Leading a South Korean delegation

Dimitri sets off for Randegg a small village nearby with district heating via a solar thermal system and a wood chip boiler. The large solar thermal system saves wood chips and provides sufficient heat. Solarcomplex AG from Singen had asked him to inform a delegation from South Korea consisting of members of a national nature conservation organisations about the expansion of renewable energies in Germany.

The Lake Constance Foundation and Solarcomplex are working together, in the organisation of the annual „Energy Systems in Transition“ event on the island of Mainau.

**„An on-site impression creates understanding and breaks down barriers and concerns.“**

*Dimitri Vedel, Lake Constance Foundation*

The South Koreans quickly realise how easy it is to implement a sustainable heat supply in South Korea. „A first-hand impression creates understanding and breaks down barriers and concerns,“ Dimitri has already observed during many guided tours – regardless of whether they are municipal and district councillors from Baden-Württemberg or guests from Asia.



### Conference „Energy systems in transition“ on the island of Mainau

**Bodensee-Stiftung, Insel Mainau GmbH, Landesforstverwaltung Baden-Württemberg and solarcomplex AG invite you to the 23rd „Energy Systems in Transition“ event on the island of Mainau on 19th – 20th of September 2024.**

Further information on the upcoming event and the recording of the presentations from the 2023 conference can be viewed at

[bioenergie-region-bodensee.de](https://bioenergie-region-bodensee.de)



More info





## There is still a lot of energy in residual biomass

**The Lake Constance Foundation demonstrates possibilities for utilising biogenic waste materials and receives the Bioeconomy 2023 Innovation Award for this.**

Green cuttings from roadsides, landscaping material, grain husks, cherry pits or fruit pomace: what is most likely to be suitable for composting or for the biogas plant is valuable material. Thanks to technological processes, these renewable raw materials can be processed in such a way that they can replace petroleum-based products or fossil coal. The special charm: the bio-based raw materials can be obtained as part of a co-utilisation process. This means that there are no land use conflicts for food cultivation. The Lake Constance Foundation is investigating the possibilities of this „circular bioeconomy“ in various projects.

### Minister honours Lake Constance Foundation

Their work has been recognised: in November, Minister Peter Hauk MdL honoured the Lake Constance Foundation with the Bioeconomy 2023 Innovation Award for the „CoAct“ project at the Baden-Württemberg Bioeconomy Day at Hohenheim Castle. Over the past five years, the Lake Constance Foundation has been working in the joint project to determine how plant-based activated carbon from residual biomass of regional origin can be used in sewage treatment plants to replace fossil-based activated carbon using the example of the Lake Constance district. With the CoAct process, the project partners have developed a forward-looking concept for reducing the use of fossil resources and dependence on imports, while at the same time promoting regional value creation.



The path to biogenic activated carbon: on the left, grass-like landscaping material; in the centre, pellets produced from it, which were processed into biogenic activated carbon (right) via pyrolysis and activation.

„An important goal of the Lake Constance Foundation is climate protection and the careful use of valuable resources. With the CoAct process, we are demonstrating how renewable biological resources from the region, which have not yet been processed or have been processed in a way that adds little value, can be processed for sustainable wastewater treatment in the region,“ says Volker Kromrey, Managing Director of the Lake Constance Foundation, who accepted the award together with project manager Andreas Ziermann.

### Clean water with renewable raw materials

In the course of the CoAct research, a list of residual materials whose suitability as potential substrates for activated carbon production was analysed was compiled. This was created primarily with a view to the Lake Constance project region, but also takes into account other biomasses that are important for

the transferability of the project results to other regions. After analysing over 30 biomasses, some of which were excluded as unsuitable, the focus was on seven biomasses: green waste from landscape conservation measures, hop chaff, wine pomace, roadside greenery, prunings from high trunk trees, maize straw and hedge and shrub cuttings.

In processing according to the IFBB process (integrated solid fuel and biogas production from biomass), the biomass is divided into a solid (press cake) and liquid fraction (press juice). The liquid components can be utilised for energy production in a biogas plant. The solid fraction can be further processed into activated carbon.

**„Carrying out the project for clean water with renewable raw materials on Lake Constance, Europe's largest drinking water reservoir, is of particular importance to us.“**

*Andreas Ziermann, Lake Constance Foundation*

Following successful laboratory tests, a practical trial was started at the end of the year at the Kressbronn a. B.-Langenargen sewage treatment plant. An evalua-



Minister Peter Hauk MdL (left) presented Andreas Ziermann (centre) and Volker Kromrey (right) with the Bioeconomy Innovation Award 2023 at Hohenheim Palace.

tion of the CoAct technology concept underlines the ecological added value: compared to the use of conventional activated carbon, CO<sub>2</sub> savings of a factor of 10 were achieved.

**„The laboratory tests prove that the cleaning performance of activated plant carbon is on a par with that of conventional activated carbon and in some cases even surpasses it.“**

*Dr. Korbinian Kaetzl, scientist from the Department of Grassland Science and Renewable Resources at the University of Kassel*

The aim is to continue working beyond the project duration at the end of 2023 in order to be able to hand over preliminary planning for a plant suitable for biomass processing and pyrolysis that can be operated on site at the sewage treatment plant. The prize money of the Bioeconomy 2023 Innovation Award will also be used for this purpose. There is currently no plant in Germany that produces activated carbon from plant residues on an industrial scale. The consortium partners want to work with universities and companies to develop and identify suitable funding programmes. They are also working on the concept for the standardised processing of green waste.

### Project Creisel: By-products of food processing

Of many crops only a small proportion are processed for consumption. Parts of the plants, such as stems and leaves, are not suitable as food and are produced directly in the field or as waste during processing in the factory. The aim of the bioeconomy is to utilise these substances or recyclable materials. This can be done directly, for example by feeding the residues to animals, or by extracting valuable ingredients such as enzymes through processes and thus making them accessible to the biotechnology industry. Although the degree of maturity of biotechnological solutions is very high, conversion and extraction technologies for processing and utilising residues and

by-products, for example, have so far been little used. What potential lies untapped here? This is being investigated by the Lake Constance Foundation together with the University of Hohenheim in the Creisel project (Opportunities for the valorisation of residual and by-products from food processing in terms of the bioeconomy) in an exchange with companies and science.

Apple pomace, for example, offers a wide range of further processing possibilities: From use in cosmetic products such as hair conditioners or hand creams to use as insulation material or in disposable tableware to processing in cleaning agents and nappies made from apple pomace. The project is investigating the possibilities for bioeconomic utilisation of residues after processing fruit, nuts, grain, wine and hops, for example. The aim is to identify the potential, but also the hurdles that have so far stood in the way of recycling-oriented material utilisation.

### Bioeconomy for the farmers of the future (BLITZ)

**Thanks to the bioeconomy, agriculture can develop business areas beyond food supply.** The aim of the BLITZ project was to familiarise students at agricultural colleges with these opportunities.

In collaboration with the University of Hohenheim, the Lake Constance Foundation developed materials to encourage creativity for technical solutions and new production and processing methods. A supplementary guide makes it easier for teachers to incorporate the topic into technical school lessons. In addition, a material kit was compiled with samples of agricultural raw and residual materials that can reduce the use of fossil raw materials.

[www.bodensee-stiftung.org/blitz/](http://www.bodensee-stiftung.org/blitz/)



More info



# Business & Biodiversity

In collaboration with companies, we develop pragmatic approaches and are actively involved in social debates on how the sustainable use and protection of biodiversity can succeed.



## Six out of ten frogs in the supply chain?

The question of whether and how we can practically measure biodiversity is a pressing one. Companies face looming reporting obligations, and the task would be considerably easier with a straightforward measurement method and indicators – imagine a „Frog Scale,“ for instance. An intuitively understandable scale, ideally easily measurable, until, perhaps, a smart meter or AI can generate the value with minimal effort.

Yet, success has eluded us so far: The „Frog Index“ might need to shift to a polar bear scale in the northern polar regions or an elephant scale elsewhere. Additionally, we need to consider whether we want to assess and manage actions and biodiversity at the local, regional, or even larger levels.

Scientists have proposed biodiversity indices capturing the conditions and changes in ecosystems. However, these are more abstract than the Frog Index, either very challenging to capture or unsuitable as key performance indicators (KPIs) for guiding business actions.

Beyond the challenge of navigating long supply chains, assessing the effects of options remains difficult. While the benefits of reduced pesticide use for the protection of nature and

landscapes are apparent, the practical question often arises: which option is better and more efficient? Economic efficiency is quantifiable, but the impacts on biodiversity are usually more vague. Defining specific biodiversity goals, tracking progress, and evaluating measures in terms of „cost per biodiversity unit“ are complex tasks.

This challenge engages politics, business, research, and nature conservation alike. The Bodensee Foundation actively participates in the Circhive project, aiming to develop standardized methods for companies to assess their impacts on biodiversity.

The foundation collaborates with local companies, offering pragmatic individual solutions. These are then generalized and integrated into the mainstream using systemic approaches. Advisory services for individual companies, sharing experiences with multipliers, and working on and with standards are all part of our strategy, along with scientific approaches. Our goal is clear: Ten out of ten frogs!

*Sven Schulz, Programme Manager Business & Biodiversity*





# Biodiversity-Oriented Business Premises with Seal and Signature!

## Preliminary highlight of more than ten years of commitment: certification starts.

Since the beginning of this year, companies have the opportunity to label the outdoor facilities of their sites as „biodiversity-promoting.“ The Lake Constance Foundation has successfully partnered with the German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB) as a collaborator and certifier for the development of this award, an integral part of the „Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt (UBI)“ project.

The award criteria were meticulously crafted by a team of experts, with oversight from a project advisory board. This approach ensured the integration of expertise and perspectives from horticulture, landscaping, landscape architecture, business, nature conservation, and certification specialists into the development process.

The initiative began with a focus on establishing „good professional practice“ for incorporating biodiversity considerations in the planning, execution, and maintenance of outdoor facilities. The outcome

is a nuanced award system that acknowledges „good professional practice“ at the foundational level and honors „best professional practice“ with the prestigious DGNB Platinum Award.

„Our overarching aim is to generate more attention for the issue of biodiversity loss. At the same time, we want to offer practical assessment methods that effectively help to ensure that more outdoor spaces are designed sustainably and in a way that promotes biodiversity in a holistic sense.“

*Dr Christine Lemaitre,  
Managing Director of the German  
Sustainable Building Council DGNB*

This achievement marks a significant milestone in the mainstreaming of biodiversity-oriented company premises.

Key stakeholders have come together to define a standard that outlines the characteristics of biodiversity-promoting site design in the daily operations of the property industry, planners, and implementers. This guideline provides everyone involved with a framework that will stimulate the market for „more biodiversity in site design.“

### Every milestone serves as a new starting point.

Building upon these accomplishments, the next set of goals is on the agenda. Crucial components for systematically disseminating the concept of near-biodiversity-oriented area design include developing solutions for property portfolio owners and enhancing services related to „near-biodiversity“ or biodiversity-promoting planning, creation, and maintenance of green spaces. „Zukunftsgrün“ (see page 38f.) will make a valuable contribution to these efforts.

As part of Zukunftsgrün, life cycle analyses for biodiversity-friendly construction methods are also in progress and will be integrated into relevant construction industry databases. This initiative aims to facilitate architects' choices in favor of biodiversity-friendly construction methods, particularly in building construction, where verification of the environmental properties of construction projects plays a pivotal role in many tenders, certifications, and funding programs.



This represents an important milestone in the mainstreaming of nature-oriented company premises.

The certificate of the German Association for Sustainable Building for biodiversity-promoting outdoor spaces.

### Five tips for a more biodiversity-friendly business-premises:

- Native species as the basis for plant utilisation
- Utilising potential: creating (micro) habitats, greening buildings (roof and façade)
- Reduce negative impacts: e.g. through insect-friendly lighting or measures to reduce bird strikes
- Unseal surfaces
- The freestyle: networking with surrounding ecosystems

**By the way:** The KfW environmental programme promotes the strengthening of climate and nature conservation as well as biodiversity on company premises with repayment subsidies.

**Much more information, including industry-specific information:**



[unternehmen-biologische-vielfalt.de/fuer-unternehmen/firmengelaende](https://unternehmen-biologische-vielfalt.de/fuer-unternehmen/firmengelaende)



[naturnahefirmengelaende.de](https://naturnahefirmengelaende.de)



## The supply chain is also coming into focus

### Anchoring biodiversity in business – beyond the company premises

Biodiversity has become increasingly important for many companies – a trend that is set to continue due to the upcoming reporting obligations. The need for information and advice has grown steadily at all

levels in recent years. In order to create a more widely available range of information, the Lake Constance Foundation, in co-operation with the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce, has offered training workshops for employees of the CCIs in the regions.

IHK regions, which makes it easier for companies to take the first steps in considering biodiversity in their day-to-day operations.

### Delve deeper with biodiversity checks

As a further step, companies are offered biodiversity checks that delve deeper into the topic: The companies' most important points of reference with biodiversity are analysed and tangible initial steps are proposed to take biodiversity into account beyond the company site. The raw materials contained in a product are usually particularly important here, as their cultivation and extraction almost always have a significant impact on habitats.

The company's most important points of reference for biodiversity are analysed and concrete initial steps are proposed to take biodiversity into account beyond the company site.

IHK employees are supported in providing companies with basic facts on the importance of biodiversity for the economy, presenting available approaches for analysing the effects on and dependencies on biodiversity and providing suggestions for initial measures. In this way, a comprehensive programme is created in the





This poses major challenges for small and medium-sized companies in particular, as they rarely have the means to track the complex global supply chains and exert a substantial influence on the raw materials used.

### Analysis of industry-specific certifications

In addition to the commitment of individual companies, standards and certifications therefore also play an important role beyond the company premises. Improved consideration of biodiversity in the criteria of established awards can reach a substantial number of companies.

At best, this will not only make entire product groups more biodiversity-friendly, but also spread knowledge about what characterises biodiversity-friendly practices.

This is why the Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt (UBi) project is taking an „industry approach“ alongside the approach of informing and advising individual companies: The relevant certifications are being analysed for four sectors and possibilities are being discussed with the standard organisations and sector associations to better anchor biodiversity

in the certification criteria. The analysis of (ornamental) plant production began in 2023 and the first round table was organised.

Improved consideration of biodiversity in the criteria of established awards can reach a substantial number of companies.



### EMAS and biodiversity guide

The updated publication helps companies and organisations to integrate the complex field of biodiversity step by step into their corporate environmental management in order to reduce negative impacts on biodiversity in a structured and continuous manner. It identifies activities and their potential impact on biodiversity and suggests examples of key figures and indicators.

The information in the guide is not only suitable for EMAS, but also for all other environmental management systems.

The guidelines are published by the Lake Constance Foundation and the Global Nature Fund, both partners in the Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt (UBi) project.



Download Link

## Where machinists become hosts for insects

### In the AZUBI Gardens project, young people develop ideas for more biodiversity and a better quality of life on company premises.

Espalier fruit trees alongside a wooden privacy screen, a seating area adorned with flowers and shade-providing trees in front of a green garage wall, an insect hotel and a wooden plank path in between. This is how apprentices from the Constance-based company INGUN want to improve the quality of the company premises. In small groups, the eleven trainees have developed ideas to increase biodiversity and the overall quality on the company premises. What makes this initiative unique is that these young people are not undergoing training in gardening and landscaping but are instead pursuing technical professions.

INGUN Prüfmittelbau GmbH, SÜDKURIER Medienhaus (also based in Constance), the Bad Urach-based company Magura and the Schwarzwald-Baar-Heuberg Chamber of Industry and Commerce are pilot companies in the „AZUBI-Gärten“ project. In this way, the Lake Constance Foundation is providing young individuals at the beginning of their careers – regardless of their sector – with the fundamentals of biodiversity and its significance as a foundation for life as well as the expertise to develop and implement biodiversity-promoting measures for their respective company premises.

„Young people want to know what the company is doing in terms of sustainability and want to contribute.“

*Janka Miesch, Head of Human Resources, SÜDKURIER Medienhaus*

It may come as a surprise that prospective machinists, industrial clerks or machine and plant operators are tackling the topic of biodiversity. However, the apprentices demonstrated impressive ideas during the project's kickoff with a theoretical day. „With great openness and enthusiasm, they embraced the topic and developed their concepts,“ says project leader Daniela Dietsche.

Daniela Dietsche and Environmental Protection Manager Linda Riek inspired the apprentices, despite their technical background, with engaging and informative formats about biodiversity. This enabled them to quickly grasp criteria for attractive habitats for plants and animals that could find a home on their company premises. Until the practical day in spring 2024, when the implementation of the design ideas begins, the staff of the Lake Constance Foundation will accompany the apprentices in their preparations and provide additional informational material, such as suitable climbing plants.

The participating companies are highly motivated: „Young people want to know what the company is doing in terms of sustainability and want to contribute,“ says Janka Miesch, Head of Human Resources at SÜDKURIER Medienhaus. This is why the company has already incorporated sustainability into its in-house training. Offering apprentices the opportunity to implement a specific project on site perfectly aligns with this concept.



Apprentices from the company INGUN in Konstanz explain their ideas for a biodiversity-enhancing transformation of the company premises.

For INGUN, participating in the project is seen as another enhancement of the company's attractiveness. „We have restructured our training programme and, as part of this, we have also expanded our facilities with a dedicated building, as well as redesigned the green area for training,“ explains INGUN training manager Holger Schäffer. He looks forward to apprentices collectively enhancing the company premises and simultaneously contributing to greater biodiversity.

A planning detail reveals that the trainees are already proud of their work: An information sign about the project and its contributors is already on the to-do list.

Interested companies can get in touch with the Lake Constance Foundation.

Lake Constance Foundation will continue the project and make the training materials available to other training organisations.

Contact: [daniela.dietsche@bodensee-stiftung.org](mailto:daniela.dietsche@bodensee-stiftung.org)





# More green, less heat: how can settlements become climate-resilient with the help of biodiversity?

**How climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation and climate protection complement and promote each other.**

The one cannot be separated from the other: Climate change and the loss of biodiversity interlock like two cogs and reinforce each other. Simplified: The more species that become extinct, the fewer ecosystem services – such as the sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub> – can be guaranteed. The hotter and drier it gets, the more species die out. The formula also works in reverse: preserving biodiversity slows down climate change and its consequences.

How can settlements utilise this to prepare for high temperatures and heavy rainfall events or long periods of drought? What opportunities does more „green“ in built-up areas offer to maintain or improve the health of citizens and the quality of life? How can biodiversity, climate protection and climate change adaptation be considered together? And is „green“ the same as „biodiversity“?

These issues are being addressed by the Interreg-funded Zukunftsgrün project, which was launched in 2023 under the leadership of the Lake Constance Foundation with partners from Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The aim is to find nature-based solutions in preference to technical solutions. Greening buildings, for example,

has insulating properties for the building and cooling effects for the surrounding area, while at the same time binding pollutants and creating habitats. Zukunftsgrün combines this idea of as much „green“ as possible with the „how“, i.e. diverse, site-adapted and predominantly native planting that also promotes biodiversity.

Zukunftsgrün combines the idea of „as much green as possible“ with the „how“, i.e. diverse, site-adapted and predominantly native planting that also promotes biodiversity.

The project partners are creating cross-border training and education programmes in the DACH region and building a transdisciplinary network with experts from the planning and implementation of urban design. Thanks to the Liebenau Foundation as a cooperation partner with locations in 130 municipalities, the project can demonstrate the scalability of biodiversity-friendly, climate-adapted land design and its integration into property

management. In addition, it contributes to sensitising citizens, administration and business through intensive public relations work.

## More green = successful climate change adaptation?

Green facades and roofs, the conversion of sealed surfaces into green spaces, more trees in the city, flowering roundabouts – there are many known solutions for improving the microclimate and protecting biodiversity in cities and settlements. However, there are pitfalls in the actual implementation. For example, a misunderstanding of climate change adaptation can lead to the introduction of invasive species from other climate zones that threaten native ecosystems.

How can citizens whose visual habits and aesthetic sensibilities are challenged by supposedly „unkempt“ areas be brought on board? How can gardening and landscaping companies be trained on the one hand and then promote a still unfamiliar design to customers themselves? How can employees of building yards be empowered for the implementation?



A glimpse into the future of the Bregenz Bay? The „Vorarlberg Underground Route“ vision was commissioned by the Vorarlberg Federation of Industry, conceptualised with Reinventing Society and graphically implemented by loomn.

More images of the future at [www.realutopien.de](http://www.realutopien.de)

## Part of the solution: green roofs

The project attaches particular importance to green roofs. Materials and decision-making aids are being developed for building owners, including, for example, life cycle assessment data for green roofs and their life cycle analyses. The information collected will be incorporated into the „baubook“ database, which provides information for various target groups on the planning and realisation of sustainable buildings.

In the Zukunftsgrün project, the cooperation partners Energieinstitut Vorarlberg and baubook.at are continuing to analyse the requirements for sustainable and valuable green roofs. Life cycle assessments can already be calculated using the baubook component calculator [baubook.at/btr](http://baubook.at/btr). As part of the project, the life cycle assessment data will be

expanded to include data for materials required for greening measures. Data and models for calculating the carbon footprint of greening measures will also be included.

The two organisations also provide support for the success of green roof-PV combinations. This complements „Zukunftsgrün“ and another project of the Lake Constance Foundation: GeWeGe@skills.BW is working with the Bundesverband GebäudeGrün and partners from the skilled trades to prepare joint further training on solar green roof combinations for skilled trades companies from the various trades involved as well as energy consultants (see page 26, *Energy transition field of action*).

## „Game without borders“ for municipalities

Municipalities from Austria, Germany and Switzerland that want to make their neighbourhoods fit for the future with ecological and nature-based solutions are invited to take part in a competition as part of the project. The „Game without Borders“ aims to support cities and municipalities in creating synergies between climate protection, biodiversity conservation and adaptation to the consequences of climate change. The game offers expert input and dialogue at specialist events and excursions over the next three years. The winners of the competition are quality of life and biodiversity, and of course the best ideas and implementations will be honoured accordingly. 30 representatives from local authorities took part in an orientation excursion in autumn 2023.

## Three questions for Daniel Assfalg

**Climate change effects such as the increase in hot days and tropical nights place a particular burden on vulnerable groups. This is why social enterprises in which vulnerable groups work and are cared for have an even greater interest in mitigating the effects of climate change on their properties. The Liebenau Foundation is active in around 130 municipalities as a sponsor of numerous organisations. It is a co-operation partner in the „Zukunftsgrün“ project.**

### What goals does the Liebenau Foundation want to achieve in the „Zukunftsgrün“ project?

Our cooperation with the Lake Constance Foundation enables us to develop forward-looking, biodiversity-friendly and climate-adapted utilisation concepts for our numerous green spaces. They are part of our sustainability management. By trialling them at six of our locations, we are able to take a very differentiated approach.

### How can the Liebenau Foundation benefit from the cooperation with the Lake Constance Foundation?

The project also includes site analyses, for example, which we could not carry out on our own to this extent. The Lake

Constance Foundation also offers training courses for our gardeners that are specifically tailored to the topics of biodiversity and climate-adapted planting. We greatly appreciate being able to call on this expert knowledge. Our areas are sustainably enhanced as a result.

### The Liebenau Foundation will gain a lot of experience in the process. Will external parties also be able to use it?

Yes, we will pass on our knowledge and experience to external gardeners and employees of building yards: To this end, we are planning a model area for practical training courses at the Liebenau site. Our private customers will also benefit from our commitment to climate protection and biodiversity.



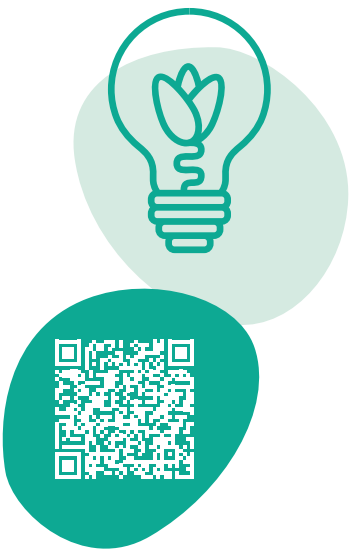
**Daniel Assfalg**  
Head of Gardening  
and Landscaping at the  
Liebenau Foundation



# Project overview

## Agriculture & the food sector

- AgroCO<sub>2</sub>ncept – Climate protection and agriculture in the Flaachtal valley
- BLITZ – Bioeconomy for farmers of the future
- CAP4GI – Common Agricultural Policy for Diverse Landscapes
- EIP WertSchwein – More sustainability in the pork value chain through stable regional supply chains
- EIP SüdSchwein4Klima – „Climate quick check“ for pig farms
- Development of a market-oriented assessment framework for biodiversity services in agriculture in Baden-Württemberg
- Food for Biodiversity – sector initiative for biodiversity in the cultivation and production of food
- Green Vineyards – making the wine sector climate-friendly
- LIFE Insect responsible sourcing regions – A regional alliance of farmers, the food industry, municipalities and other land users
- Model orchards to promote biodiversity – Establishment of model orchards in Baden-Württemberg
- PRO PLANET biodiversity project – Promotion of wild bees in intensive apple plantations



## Energy transition

- Creisel – Opportunities for the valorisation of food processing residues and by-products in the bioeconomy
- CoAct – Production of activated carbon and energy sources from residual biomass
- GeWeGE@skills.BW – Joint further training in solar green roof combinations for tradesmen from the various trades involved and energy consultants
- Municipal heat planning – a key tool for sustainable urban development
- PV Network Schwarzwald-Baar-Heuberg – Promoting photovoltaic expansion in the Schwarzwald-Baar-Heuberg region
- Solar Offensive Germany – Support for the nationwide campaign of the German Environmental Aid

## Business & biodiversity

- AZUBI Gardens – Education for sustainable development
- CircHive – Recognising, measuring and reporting on the value of nature
- Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt (UBi) – Biodiversity in Corporate Management UBi
- Future greenery – biodiversity, climate protection and climate change adaptation thinking together



## Nature & Lake Conservation

- Blue Lakes – Reducing the discharge of microplastics into lakes in Italy and Germany
- Development and implementation of an internationally orientated certification system for peat substitutes
- Flower Kids – Ambassadors for biodiversity and wild bees
- Living Lakes – International network for the protection of lakes and wetlands
- LLBCP – Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project
- Wir im Wald/DeKko4Rest – Research and communication project on recreation-based conflicts in forests



# We will keep you up to date!

## NEWSLETTER

You will receive the latest information on our activities and projects in our newsletter (approx. 3 to 4 times a year).

Register for this on our homepage:

[www.bodensee-stiftung.org](http://www.bodensee-stiftung.org)



## LINKEDIN

Find current events, project results, collaborations and much more on our LinkedIn profile.

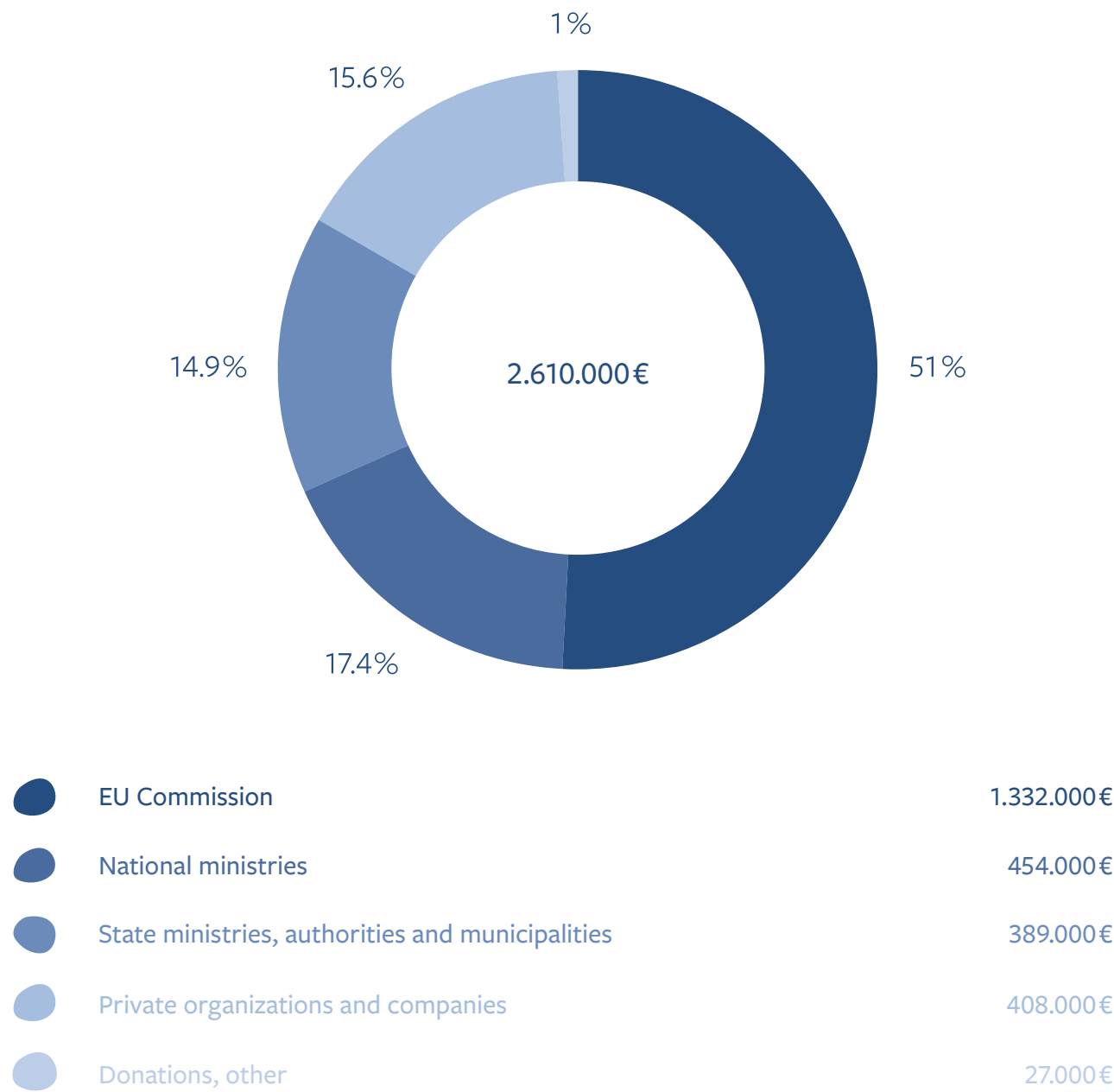
Follow the Lake Constance Foundation channel and stay informed:

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REVENUES 2022



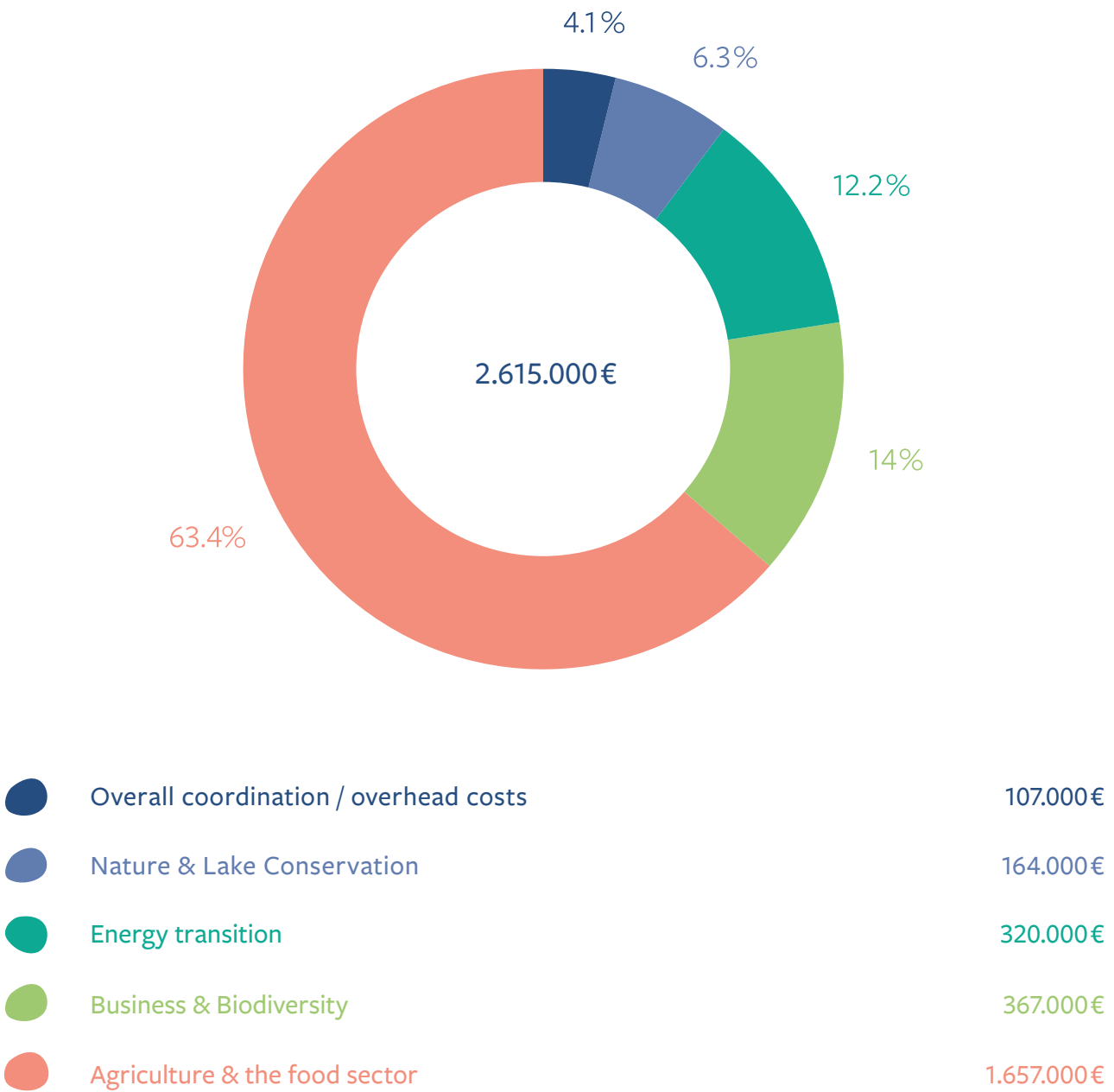
The financing of activities and projects for the Lake Constance Foundation is somewhat different every year – the core are the project applications to public and private funding bodies. But business partners, foundations and donations also play an increasingly important role.

In 2023, we were once again able to secure funding for project work and get new innovative ideas off the ground.

**At this point, we would like to thank all our sponsors and donors for their trust in our organisation and their support of our work!**

An overview of the income and expenditure of the implemented projects and other activities of the Lake Constance Foundation in 2022 can be found on these pages. The expenses are assigned to our fields of action. We have structured the income according to the funding sources.

EXPENSES 2022



The Lake Constance Foundation undergoes an independent audit every year. Since 2017, the annual financial statements have been audited according to the requirements of the German Commercial Code and foundation law, distinguishing between ongoing and completed projects and used and unspent donations and grants.

The annual financial statements since 2012 with annual balance sheet, profit and loss statement and the auditor's report can be viewed on the Lake Constance Foundation's website.



Our Team



**DANIELA DIETSCHKE**  
*Project Manager*  
Mg. Sc. Biology/Geography  
**Business & Biodiversity**  
Tel. +49 (0) 7732 9995-446  
daniela.dietsche@bodensee-stiftung.org



**DR. KERSTIN FRÖHLE**  
*Project Coordinator*  
Dipl. Biology  
**Agriculture & the food sector**  
Tel. +49 (0) 7732 9995-40  
kerstin.froehle@bodensee-stiftung.org



**SVEN SCHULZ**  
*Programme Manager*  
**Business & Biodiversity,  
Nature & Lake Conservation**  
Tel. +49 (0) 7732 9995-441  
sven.schulz@bodensee-stiftung.org



**SABINE SOMMER**  
*Project Coordinator*  
Dipl.-Ing. Agricultural Sciences  
**Agriculture & the food sector**  
Tel. +49 (0) 7732 9995-42  
sabine.sommer@bodensee-stiftung.org



**MARION HAMMERL**  
*Senior Expert*  
Dipl. Business Administration  
**Agriculture & the food sector,  
Business & Biodiversity**  
Tel. +49 (0) 7732 9995-45  
marion.hammerl@bodensee-stiftung.org



**CHRISTINE KEWES**  
*Project Manager*  
B.Sc. Land Use and Conservation  
**Agriculture & the food sector**  
Tel. +49 (0) 7732 9995-444  
christine.kewes@bodensee-stiftung.org



**PATRICK TRÖTSCHLER**  
*Managing Director and Programme Manager*  
Dipl.-Ing. Agricultural Sciences  
**Agriculture & the food sector**  
Tel. +49 (0) 7732 9995-41  
p.troetschler@bodensee-stiftung.org



**DIMITRI VEDEL**  
*Programme Manager*  
Dipl. Forestry  
**Energy transition, Nature & Lake Conservation**  
Tel. +49 (0) 7732 9995-47  
dimitri.vedel@bodensee-stiftung.org



**VOLKER KROMREY**  
*Managing Director and Programme Manager*  
Dipl.-Ing. Forestry (FH)  
**Energy transition, Agriculture & food  
sector, Nature & Lake Conservation**  
Tel. +49 (0) 7732 9995-48  
volker.kromrey@bodensee-stiftung.org



**LINDA LENTZEN**  
*Project Manager*  
M.Sc. Environmental Science  
**Energy transition**  
Tel. +49 (0) 7732 9995-446  
linda.lentzen@bodensee-stiftung.org



**ANNEKATHRIN VOGEL**  
*Project Manager*  
Dipl.-Ing. Agricultural Sciences  
**Agriculture & the food sector**  
Tel. +49 (0) 7732 9995-40  
annekathrin.vogel@bodensee-stiftung.org



**CAROLINA WACKERHAGEN**  
*Project Coordinator*  
M.Sc. Environmental Sciences  
**Agriculture & the food sector**  
Tel. +49 (0) 7732 9995-447  
carolina.wackerhagen@bodensee-stiftung.org



**GERTRUD NUßBAUM**  
*Administration*  
Dipl.-Ing. Agricultural Sciences  
**All programme areas**  
Tel. +49 (0) 7732 9995-43  
gertrud.nussbaum@bodensee-stiftung.org



**DR. PATRICK PYTTTEL**  
*Project Coordinator*  
Dipl. Forestry  
**Agriculture & the food sector**  
Tel. +49 (0) 7732 9995-446  
patrick.pyttel@bodensee-stiftung.org



**ANJA WISCHER**  
*Public relations and  
communication*  
Tel. +49 (0) 7732 9995-447  
anja.wischer@bodensee-stiftung.org



**SASKIA WOLF**  
*Project Manager*  
M.Sc. Nature Protection and  
Environmental Education  
**Agriculture & the food sector,  
Nature & Lake Conservation**  
Tel. +49 (0) 7732 9995-443  
saskia.wolf@bodensee-stiftung.org



**ANTJE REICH**  
*Project Coordinator*  
Dipl.-Ing. Environmental Planning  
**Nature & Lake Conservation,  
Agriculture & the food sector**  
Tel. +49 (0) 7732 9995-444  
antje.reich@bodensee-stiftung.org



**LINDA RIEK**  
*Project Manager*  
M.Eng. Environmental Protection  
**Business & Biodiversity**  
Tel. +49 (0) 7732 9995-446  
linda.riek@bodensee-stiftung.org



**ANDREAS ZIERMANN**  
*Programme Manager*  
Dipl.-Ing. (FH) Agricultural Sciences  
**Agriculture & the food sector, Energy  
transition, Nature & Lake Conservation**  
Tel. +49 (0) 7732 9995-46  
andreas.ziermann@bodensee-stiftung.org



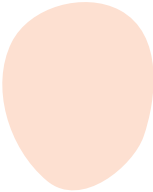
**VERA SCHULZ**  
*Administration*  
Retail saleswoman  
**All programme areas**  
Tel. +49 (0) 7732 9995-43  
vera.schulz@bodensee-stiftung.org



**DR. IMMANUEL SCHÄFER**  
*Project Manager*  
Dipl. Biology, M.Sc. Engineering  
**Energy transition**  
Tel. +49 (0) 7732 9995-442  
immanuel.schaefer@bodensee-stiftung.org



**DR. MICHAEL SCHOLZ**  
*Project Manager*  
Dipl.-Chemistry  
**Business & Biodiversity**  
Tel. +49 (0) 7732 9995-42  
michael.scholz@bodensee-stiftung.org



**BIANCA MESSMER**  
*Trainee*  
M.Sc. Environmental science  
**Agriculture & the food sector**  
bianca.messmer@bodensee-stiftung.org



# Memberships 2023 – a selection of our active memberships

## Regional:

- Aktionsbündnis für gentechnikfreie Landwirtschaft in Baden-Württemberg
- Bioenergie-Regionen
- Franz- und Hildegard Rohr-Vogelschutz Stiftung (Sitz in der Bodensee-Stiftung)
- Klimaallianz Baden-Württemberg
- Landschaftserhaltungsverband Konstanz
- LEADER Westlicher Bodensee
- solarLAGO smart energy network
- Plattform Erneuerbare Energien BW

## National:

- Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR)
- Netzwerk Blühende Landschaft
- Netzwerk Lebendige Seen Deutschland
- Netzwerk Agrar-Klima-Beratung
- DIN Spiegelausschuss für die ISO 331 Biodiversität
- THeKLa – Bundesweites Expertennetzwerk Treibhausgasbilanzierung und Klimaschutz in der Landwirtschaft
- Expertengruppe „THG-Bilanzierung Milchvieh“
- Umweltgutachter-Ausschuss
- Verein „Food for Biodiversity“

## International/EU:

- ECOCAMPING
- Initiative Gentechnikfreie Bodenseeregion
- Internationales Seennetzwerk Living Lakes
- ELLA – European Living Lakes Association
- ECOTRANS – Europäisches Netzwerk für Nachhaltigen Tourismus
- Umweltrat Bodensee

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**Lake Constance Foundation – International Foundation for Nature and Culture**

Fritz-Reichle-Ring 4, 78315 Radolfzell  
Tel. : 0049-(0)7732-9995 40  
Fax : 0049-(0)7732-9995 49  
E-Mail: [info@bodensee-stiftung.org](mailto:info@bodensee-stiftung.org)  
[www.bodensee-stiftung.org](http://www.bodensee-stiftung.org)

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is a private environmental and nature conservation organisation that works on a project-oriented basis for more sustainability and nature conservation – regionally, nationally and internationally. It is active in the four fields of action energy transition, agriculture & the food sector, nature & lake conservation and business & biodiversity. The LCF works closely with stakeholders from business, specialised administrations, municipalities, politics and other interest groups together. The Lake Constance Foundation was founded in 1994. It is based in Radolfzell on Lake Constance.

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