



Nature & Lake Conservation

Energy Transition

Business & Biodiversity

Agriculture & the Food Sector

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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Two men for one woman



In December 2022, an era came to an end at the Lake Constance Foundation. After 25 years as Managing Director, our long-time colleague and boss Marion Hammerl retired. She had already handed over the management in the summer and in September we were able to thank and honour Marion appropriately at a celebration: for her work, her commitment, her life's work „Lake Constance Foundation“, her personality and her tireless spirit of sustainability. That was very nice. And we are glad that Marion will continue to work for the Lake Constance Foundation as a „Senior Expert“.

The Executive Board of the Lake Constance Foundation quickly realised that it needed at least two men to replace Marion Hammerl. So we - Volker Kromrey and Patrick Trötschler - have been the new managing directors of the Lake Constance Foundation since July 2022. We are delighted about the trust placed in us by the Executive Board and the team. We are convinced of our model of „shared leadership“. We have respect for responsibility. And we see many more opportunities than risks in our task of further developing the Lake Constance Foundation as a well-established partner for innovative and ambitious sustainability projects in a future-proof and trend-setting manner.

We have known the Lake Constance Foundation for many years, Patrick since 2000, Volker since 2008. For us, the Lake Constance Foundation has become our professional home during this time. In the meantime, the Lake Constance Foundation is a rich foundation, because our real capital is the incredibly motivated, creative and committed team - and this has grown continuously over the last 15 years. This team with currently 22 personalities and many professional, methodical, organisational and interpersonal skills is invaluable.

We see one of the main tasks of the Lake Constance Foundation as managing director as being to maintain and develop this precious capital. Because only with such a team can we also put our substantive and creative strengths for more sustainability and nature conservation into practice.

We are looking forward to working together - with our colleagues, our presidium and with all our project partners in the 30 or so projects and collaborations that we will realise in 2023.



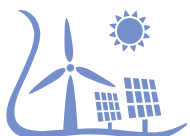
Patrick Trötschler

Volker Kromrey



NATURE & LAKE CONSERVATION

- LIFE Blue Lakes - Microplastics in lakes
- DeKko4Rest - Research and communication project on recreation-based conflicts in forests
- Flower Kids - Ambassadors for diversity and wild bees



ENERGY TRANSITION

- CoAct - production of activated carbon and energy sources from residual biomass
- SocialRES - Strengthening energy democracy
- COALESCCE - Citizen-organised energy transition
- CSSC Lab - Sector coupling and energy storage for municipalities
- PV Network SBH - Promoting photovoltaic expansion in the region Schwarzwald-Baar-Heuberg
- Municipal heat planning - central tool for sustainable urban development



BUSINESS & BIODIVERSITY

- UBI - Biodiversity in Corporate Management
- LIFE-BooGI-BOP - Biodiversity on company premises
- Biodiversity in the vocational training of gardening and landscaping



AGRICULTURE & THE FOOD SECTOR

- LIFE Insect responsible sourcing regions
- PROPLANET – Promotion of wild bees in intensive apple plantations
- Development of a market-oriented assessment framework for biodiversity services in agriculture in Baden-Württemberg
- CAP4GI - Improving biodiversity promotion in the Common Agricultural Policy
- Food for Biodiversity - an association to increase the biodiversity in current food systems
- Del Campo al Plato - Protecting biodiversity in banana and pineapple cultivation
- GeNIAL - an educational project on adapting agriculture to climate change
- Green Vineyards - making the wine sector climate-friendly
- COPERNICUS - a web tool for sustainable adaptation in Europe
- BLITZ - Bioeconomy for farmers of the future
- LIFE Clean Air Farming - air pollution control through agriculture
- ACCT - Climate protection in agriculture



The Living Lakes Network continues to develop

In 2023, the International Living Lakes Network will celebrate its 25th anniversary. It started with four organisations at four lakes: St. Lucia in South Africa, Mono Lake in California, La Nava in Spain and Lake Constance - represented by the Lake Constance Foundation.

In 2022, after a long period of preparation, the international „Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate“ project was finally approved. It is funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Republic of Germany. Ten Living Lakes partners in 10 lake regions in South America, Africa and Asia are involved - as well as the Fundación Global Nature and the Lake Constance Foundation. Global Nature Fund is responsible for the overall coordination.

The goals and measures are ambitious and should contribute to improving the

management of lakes in the participating regions. Persons involved in management tasks have the opportunity to participate in training measures to learn new techniques and methods and to exchange with regions where good approaches exist. Another important target group are farmers and fishermen. Improving their practices has a positive impact on the lake as an ecosystem and specifically on water quality. But improved practices also help farmers and fishermen to better adapt to the impacts of climate change and possibly optimise the commercialization of their products. A specific focus of the training is on young people, who are specifically addressed and supported with a trainee programme and the Sustainable Leadership Journeys.

In all ten lake regions, „frontrunner“ initiatives are implemented: Measures that

contribute to solve problems affecting many lakes. In addition, a fund is available to support other organisations that want to adopt these measures in their regions.

Through the virtual Living Lakes Academy, lake protecting organisations from all over the world have access to materials of the project and studies, publications, positive examples etc. which are compiled in the international Living Lakes Network. These are some of the measures that will be implemented from 2023 onwards – supported by Lake Constance Foundation with expertise, experience and ideas.





ELLA: European Living Lakes Association

In order to make the activities more effective and to distribute the coordination on more shoulders, the Living Lakes Network increasingly relies on so-called regional networks: Living Lakes Canada, Living Lakes South America, Living Lakes South Asia and now also Living Lakes Europe.

Six European LL partners - including the Lake Constance Foundation - who have been working together for many years, have founded ELLA in 2022 and

are implementing a joint work programme. Climate protection and biodiversity are among the focal points, including training and exchange on climate protection measures and adaptation to climate change, as well as the development and broad application of a method to calculate the CO₂ storage capacities of intact wetlands. If companies were willing to finance the protection and restoration of wetlands to create CO₂ sinks, an important new source of funding for the restoration of wetlands and lakes could emerge.

Furthermore, ELLA members and other organisations are trained on issues regarding biodiversity and agriculture and the Biodiversity Check for companies. The aim is to implement measures in their lake regions. ELLA aims to grow to 20 members by the end of 2024.

Lake Balaton - an important tourist region and the largest inland lake in Middle Europe





Out of sight out of mind? - How Blue Lakes makes an invisible problem perceptible

When problems become smaller, it is actually better. Not so with microplastics. Scientific studies by the United Nations Environment Programme found out that 11 million tons of plastic end up in the oceans every year. The amount is expected to triple by 2040. Most plastic is dumped into the sea from land and rivers. Exposed to wind and weather, it decomposes and becomes smaller and smaller particles over time. However, this process does not only take place in the sea, but also on land, in lakes and rivers. The EU-LIFE project Blue Lakes connects exactly there and takes responsibility for reducing the microplastic content in lakes. In the German-Italian project, measures are being tested on how to reduce the proven pollution in lakes and rivers and what municipalities in particular can do to prevent microplastic sources from drying up.

Toolbox against microplastics

The central tool to work with the municipalities is the Lakes Paper. The Lakes Paper includes an explanation of the scope of the microplastic problem on land, as well as a voluntary commitment of the municipality and a catalogue of measures. Municipalities in lake regions must become active in order to minimize the microplastic contribution in an exemplary manner. In Germany, at Lake Constance and Lake Chiemsee, municipalities are approached by Lake Constance Foundation and Global Nature Fund and motivated to participate in the project and sign the voluntary commitment. The main goal was to familiarize the municipalities with the catalogue of measures and to show that action against microplastics has nothing to do with the size and structure of a municipality - even small and medium-sized municipalities can do something with simple but effective measures.

Attention to the problem

The performance of the two sailors who dared to circumnavigate Lake Constance non-stop in Laser dinghies is sensational. Max Gasser and Elias

Fausser were awake for 22 hours at a stretch and sailed around the lake at the highest sporting level. The sailing challenge was intended to raise funds for the project and draw public attention to the threat of microplastics. The strong media event was noticed in the international Lake Constance region and made the project known far beyond its borders. Other high-profile opportunities to report on microplastic pollution in lakes were the Living Lakes Conference at Dümmersee in Germany and the International Living Lakes Conference at lake Titicaca in Puno, Peru. The participants of both conferences agreed that a transfer of the experiences and particularly the measures from the Blue Lakes Project to other lake regions is urgently needed. Only with a joint effort of municipalities in the lake regions, civil society and the contribution of companies in finding solutions, microplastic inputs can be prevented from continuing to increase so rapidly in lakes. This will ensure that even the problem remains invisible - something is done about it.



Caption: Sailing challenge:
The non-stop circumnavigation of Lake Constance was accompanied by the media and brought a lot of attention to the microplastic problem.



We in the forest

For many people, the forest is an important place for recreation and leisure. This has intensified during the Corona pandemic. More and more frequently, very different activities are carried out in the forest. It is not uncommon for visitors to get in each other's way or come into conflict with forestry, hunting or nature conservation in the forest. These „recreation-based conflicts of use“ are the starting point and anchor point of the research and communication project „Wir im Wald!“ (We in the forest!), which the Lake Constance Foundation started this autumn together with the Rottenburg University of Applied Forest Sciences (HFR) and the Stuttgart Media University (HdM).



In the three-year project, the project partners want to find out which relevant areas of conflict exist and which communicative concepts can be used to defuse or avoid confrontations. Overall, the project aims at more tolerance for each other as well as nature-friendly sports behaviour.

By survey on more precisely described areas of conflict

At the beginning of the project, a nationwide survey was conducted among people who spend time in the forest in their leisure time or for sports or who deal with the forest as representatives

of associations, clubs and holiday regions. The project partners are interested in conflict situations that occur during leisure and sports activities or professional or voluntary work in the forest. The various conflicts were described in more detail in the survey with regard to the topics, the persons involved as well as the change in recent years.

Conflict regions as „real laboratories“

With the help of a focus group with representatives from the forestry, tourism, recreation, sports and nature conservation sectors, the survey results are discussed, four concrete areas of conflict and four project regions in Germany are selected where these conflicts occur. In the following, the conflicts in these case regions are examined in detail: Visitor counts, on-site dialogues with recreation seekers in forests, analysis of media discourse.

Together with the parties involved, the three project partners will then explore possible solutions in an open and con-

sensus-oriented discourse. Students from journalism and public relations will help shape the communication between the respective conflict parties. With its cooperation, the Lake Constance Foundation would like to contribute to the fact that all stakeholder groups involved recognise the forest, intact nature, tranquillity and varied natural spaces as a jointly used space and acknowledge the different interests.

The project is funded by the Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V. on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture for three years. The funding-specific project name is DeK-ko4Rest - Deliberative Communication for Recreation-based Use Conflicts in Forests. The project is coordinated by HFR.

A cyclist overtakes a rider in the forest: things are not always this peaceful.





Flower Kids

„I’d like to know which flowers bees like best,” says Thea (10) when asked why she is taking part in the Flower Kids. The Lake Constance Foundation explored this and many other questions about wild bees together with the children between the ages of 7 and 11 over the course of the year.

Flower-Kids - children of primary school age who are sensitised to the topic of wild bees and their habitat through playful units in the AG format - became active for the first time in 2021. The aim of the 3-year project is to enable children to become active as ambassadors for pollinating insects in their living environment. Be it by sowing wildflowers in their own garden, building nesting boxes or inspiring others for the topic.

Flower Kids at Lollipop Radolfzell

As part of the cooperation with the children’s cultural centre Lollipop of the city of Radolfzell, the Flower Kids were able to observe wild bees, play,

do handicrafts, dig and plant together on 12 afternoons. Do-it-yourself is central to the programme - through games that illustrate pollination under different (environmental) conditions or the joint redesign of green spaces. Over the summer, part of the Lollipop’s lawn was upgraded. At the end of April, the technical operations of the city of Radolfzell milled part of the area for the first time. The Flower Kids were able to lend a hand with the sand removal. The children were also involved in the selection of plants. After a big planting campaign in summer, a wide border was sown in autumn, more than 300 flower bulbs were planted and the wild bee garden was inaugurated together with the parents and many other interested people.

Fortunately, the project met with interest not only from children and parents, but also from other citizens who wanted to contribute to the Flower Kids. Donations worth more than 2,000€ were collected at a golden wedding and the proceeds of an art auction went to the project.

Outlook

In 2023, more Flower Kids will be trained as part of the gardening club at the Beethoven School in Singen. The city of Singen has promised its support for the redesign of areas. If you know of any children’s groups who would be interested in the Flower Kids or if you would like to support us actively or financially with the programme, please get in touch!

Flower Kids is funded by the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung in cooperation with the Heidehof Stiftung as part of the programme „Learning Sustainability - Children Shape the Future”. The planting material is financed by the Alliance for Participation.

Flower Kids support pollinating insects by planting native wild perennials. (left)

Flower Ambassador Sibylle Möbius shows the Flower Kids the nest tubes of mason bees. (right)





Energy crisis - Now everyone is saving?!

Everyone is talking about the energy crisis and it gives the impression that people have finally woken up and are saving energy wherever they can. It is the hard way, but at least we are achieving the savings targets we have been proclaiming for so long.

But far from it! The topic seems to have arrived in the media, but not much is happening in terms of implementation. The figures published by AG Energiebilanzen e.V. at the end of 2022 show a decline in energy consumption in Germany of only 2.7 %. Adjusted for weather effects, we are only at 1.6-2.2 %. Mild temperatures and extremely increased prices together have thus hardly made any difference so far.

Does this mean that we are all already so frugal that nothing more can be saved? Hardly, because the statistical average electricity consumption of a four-person household is still almost twice as high as that of energy-conscious households. We need clear savings incentives and obligations from the legislator, because the market will not fix it this time either.

The hope remains that the presumably permanently increased prices and the new awareness among the general population will be reflected in medium and long-term savings. Investments in more efficient appliances as well as insulation in the housing stock will have a positive effect on energy consumption,

and the profitability of these investments is now also different in trade and industry.

But this energy crisis has also shown us that there is no quick and easy solution for the energy transition. We will have to continue to be active in many areas - energy production, energy saving, energy distribution, energy storage and sufficiency - in order to make our energy supply renewable and future-proof.





Activated carbon production becomes more concrete in the region

This year, the Lake Constance Foundation focused its efforts in the CoAct project on the potential plant location of the Kressbronn-Langenargen sewage treatment plant.

The supply of regional residual biomass is to be specified. For this purpose, the building yards of Kressbronn and Langenargen were contacted in order to record the annual amount of residual biomass in the immediate vicinity of the sewage treatment plant. The additional demand for the continuous production of the activated carbon required for wastewater treatment was calculated. According to the decision matrix developed in the project, further residual biomasses were selected to cover this demand. The requirements for the storage of the woody and grassy residual biomasses were also discussed.

Before a concrete implementation, all challenges and necessary requirements for an expansion of the Kressbronn-Langenargen sewage treatment plant by a CoAct plant have to be determined. To this end, the Lake Constance Foundation has held talks with the plant planning engineers in the project and the management of the sewage treatment plant and consulted the regional plan of the Lake Constance-Upper Swabia region.

Local politics signal support

In spring 2022, the Lake Constance Foundation presented the CoAct concept to the mayors of the municipalities of Kressbronn, Ole Mündler, and Langenargen, Daniel Enzensperger. The Kress-

bronn-Langenargen sewage treatment plant is located on their municipal territory and is the ideal location for a CoAct plant. The community leaders were enthusiastic about the CoAct concept and signalled their support.

Approval authorities at one table

Since the Kressbronn-Langenargen sewage treatment plant is located in a so-called green corridor according to the regional plan, only privileged projects may receive building permission there. The Lake Constance Foundation held talks on this with the Abwasserzweckverband Kressbronn-Langenargen, the environmental protection office in the Lake Constance district, the responsible district forester as well as the head of the forestry authority and the responsible building authority. It was possible to logically explain the sensible linking of a sewage treatment plant with a CoAct plant to the various responsible parties. This creates the basis for the expansion of the sewage treatment plant to be classified as a privileged project.

At the same time, the Lake Constance Foundation is endeavouring to ensure that the CoAct facility is constructed as compactly as possible in order to realise the expansion with as little land consumption as possible. The goal is that no forest has to be cleared. Only in order to maintain the forest distance would individual trees have to be removed to protect the facility from falling trees. Through a near-natural stepped forest edge design with shrubs and low trees in the forest clearance strip, the encroachment could be reduced to a minimum and even an ecological advantage could be created.

Procedure must be refined

In exchange with the other project partners, work is being done to repeat the



In the CoAct project, activated carbon is produced from residual materials and used for wastewater treatment.

positive test results that the activated carbons produced in the project achieved in the laboratory on an industrial scale.

SocialRES - Strengthening energy democracy

The past years have shown: Acceptance and participation of citizens are essential for the success of the energy transition. This is where SocialRES comes in: The aim of the project is to promote the socially supported energy transition and to strengthen the cooperation of socially innovative companies.

The Horizon 2020 project focuses on cooperatives, crowdfunding platforms and aggregators from across Europe. Over the course of the 3.5-year project, the Lake Constance Foundation worked with the case study partners to run a series of workshops on challenges and current issues aimed at mutual learning and support. Many of the study visits took place online due to the Corona pandemic. The exchange at the face-to-face meetings in 2022 was all the more intensive and cordial.



Joint solutions for new challenges in the energy market

In the last two years, the energy market underwent strong changes and thwarted the original plans of many case study partners, who now focused on adapting to external conditions: rising energy prices and increased demand for direct marketing with increasing shortages of materials and skilled labour. The exchange during the Study Visits was found to be very helpful, it provided an opportunity to exchange ideas and find solutions with partners in the same difficult situation.

Overall, the results of the workshop series show the great potential of exchange and cooperation in the context of energy democracy - both between the individual countries and between the different business models. Many of the participating organisations are positioned differently today than they were at the beginning of the project. The case study partners indicated that they had learned a lot from other structures in the project context and would like to incorporate what they have learned into their own business models, both in terms of offering new products and services and in terms of cooperation. Inspired by SocialRES, intensive reflection and exchange processes have taken place within the individual organisations, communication and work strategies have been improved and forms of participation for members and citizens have been strengthened. In concrete terms, for example, working groups and regulars' tables for members have been set up, staff have been recruited and cooperation projects on the topic of self-consumption have been initiated.

Improve political framework conditions

The fact that the socially supported energy transition has a particularly high priority in the realisation of climate protection goals and energy sovereignty



Study visit to Lissabon

motivates the project partners in their own actions. But in every exchange it becomes clear that without the right political framework conditions, it will not work. In order to bring the topic more into the (political) public eye and to put pressure on the demands for strengthening the socially supported energy transition, a lot was done in the course of the project. The results include policy briefs and a white paper on good policy practice in the energy sector, guides and a webinar series on energy democracy, the exchange platform EESIP.eu and a toolkit for policy evaluation. All media are available on the project website: socialres.eu

COALESCCE - Citizen energy for all of Europe

The end of this six-year project also represents a caesura. It is the end of a long-standing and good cooperation with the United Kingdom (UK), because after Brexit these partners, who have always been important and valuable for the Lake Con-

stance Foundation, can no longer participate in EU projects. This is a serious loss for the European community. Time and again, the partners from the UK provided valuable impulses, developed innovative approaches and ideas and, last but not least, coordinated projects such as CoalescCE in a very competent and sympathetic manner. The project partners from the UK, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Italy, Spain and Germany met for a final meeting in Manchester in August 2022.

Nevertheless, CoalescCE's summary is positive. The overarching goal of strengthening citizen energy was achieved at different levels. In Baden-Württemberg, the Lake Constance Foundation was intensively involved in the revision of the Integrated Energy and Climate Protection Concept (IEKK). In the participating European countries, the intensive exchange as well as the good practice examples from the other countries meant that citizen energy could be established and became a concrete, often new concept.

On the one hand, the Lake Constance Foundation was able to establish and intensify good contacts with the Ministry



of the Environment of Baden-Württemberg, and on the other hand, valuable contacts to other stakeholders such as the Cooperative Association BWGV, SmartGrids BW, the Energy and Climate Agency KEA and many others were established through the work at policy level. The Lake Constance Foundation uses these contacts and experiences in further projects on the energy transition and will continue to work intensively to strengthen citizen energy.



Coalescse Partner meeting in Manchester

CSSC Lab - Many offers developed for sector coupling and energy storage in municipalities

Implementing the energy transition is a task that contributes to municipal services of general interest. How can a municipality succeed in not thinking of renewable energy projects individually, but rather in networking the advantages for the different areas - from energy generation to mobility and heat supply to energy saving? Interested municipalities will find concrete options for action and practical tips in the results of the CSSC Lab. They support municipalities and accelerate the realization of energy transition projects, especially in smaller and medium-sized cities and communities.

The DTP-INTERREG project CSSC Lab tests and supports the implementation of innovative municipal storage and

sector coupling solutions. The special: the solutions are suitable for a wide variety of European contexts, and partner organizations from eleven Danube riparian states were involved in the development.

Great potential wants to be exploited

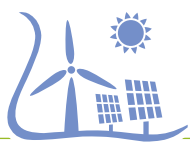
Sector coupling refers to the connection of the electricity, heat and transport sectors via energy storage and converters. It is a central building block for the success of the energy transition. Municipalities have great potential, but often need support to leverage it. As part of CSSC Lab, a range of offerings has been developed that can be tailored to the individual requirements of each community:

- CSSC model solutions and technology overview: fact sheets provide an overview of relevant solutions and facilitate access to the topic
- Online tool: Input mask guides to suitable CSSC solution for a specific municipality

- Training for municipal decision-makers: Information on technology, cost-effectiveness and capacity building
- Demo centers in Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Bulgaria illustrate the variety of innovative solutions. The demo centers can be visited, users report about their experiences
- Guidebook and Regional Action Plan: Know-how and good practice examples from CSSC Lab

All offers are available in English and in the national languages of the partner countries. Further information can be found on the project website: cssclab.eu

A special added value for the project was the project team meetings in Freiburg im Breisgau, Stegersbach in Austria and Zagreb in Croatia. During these exchanges, fine-tuning was done for practical applicability. This ensured that beyond the end of the project in December 2022, numerous offers will remain accessible to mu-



The CSSC_lab aims to use PV electricity in all sectors. The self-generated electricity can also be used for e-mobility and heat generation (e.g. with heat pumps).

nicipalities throughout the Danube region. A follow-up project is being planned to further deepen the fruitful work.

PV-Netzwerk Schwarzwald- Baar-Heuberg: Free pass for PV expansion!

The last few years, and especially the year 2022, have highlighted Germany's and Europe's dependence on imports. In the energy market, this was made very clear by Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine. Gas deliveries were severely restricted and transport routes partially destroyed. Energy is expensive, including electrical energy. This has greatly increased the demand for photovoltaics in all variations, and

PV installation companies are overrun by demand.

For the 2nd phase of the PV networks in Baden-Württemberg, whose funding started at the beginning of the year, this means a change in the actual situation. The persuasion work that was in the foreground in the years before is increasingly being replaced by advisory tasks and concrete implementations. The focus is on achieving the highest possible degree of self-sufficiency and self-sufficiency in electricity and heat. Self-sufficiency is a feature often requested by private individuals. For municipalities, the focus is on the triad of our advisory approach: First, the energy demand of the municipality is determined and it is analysed how this demand can be met by PV on municipal properties (1), on large roofs (businesses and sealed surfaces such as car parks) (2) and absolutely in the open space (classic open space PV and agri-PV (3)).

In the past year, the Schwarzwald-Baar-Heuberg PV network, together with the Schwarzwald-Baar-Heuberg Regional Energy Agency and the regional BUND (Friends of the Earth), provided advice to the various target groups, disseminated information and helped to increase value creation in the region and de-escalate conflicts.

Events on the topics of balcony PV, PV electricity for homeowners' associations, online lectures with the Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the Chamber of Crafts in Constance on topics such as green roofs and PV or PPA were attended in large numbers by the participants and the lecturers were pestered with questions. But also internally, the members from the different regions exchanged ideas at PV network meetings at Lake Constance and in Stuttgart and were inspired and motivated by the lecture of former Member of the Bundestag Hans-Josef Fell „Only with 100% renewable ener-



Green roof and photovoltaics - a combination with multiple ways



gies by 2030 will we make it out of the current crises“.

In the coming year, the focus will be on networking for large-scale expansion and strengthening of the line network, acceleration of expansion with the question „why hasn't it happened yet?“ and implementation of the interreg DTP project CSSC-lab for municipalities in connection with PV.

Heat transition in the municipality

More than 50 per cent of the energy demand in Germany must be provided for heat. Compared to this, the share for electricity is „only“ slightly more than 20 percent. It is therefore high time that the focus shifts to heating.

A heat supply is an individual matter. There are numerous ways in which this can be designed. Which energy sources are used, is the supply organised centrally or decentrally and how

is the heat used? These are questions that municipal heat planning answers. A municipal heating plan is the central tool in this process. It is the basis for sustainable urban development. It is important that each municipality works out its own path to a climate-neutral heat supply. It knows the situation on the ground and can assess the available and required resources. Such a plan is the strategic basis for finding concrete development paths and making the municipality fit for the future for the heat transition.



Lake Constance Foundation accompanies municipalities

Together with the energy agency of the Schwarzwald-Baar-Heuberg region, the Lake Constance Foundation accompanies towns with more than 20,000 inhabitants that are obliged by the state of Baden-Württemberg in their planning. It motivates medium-sized and smaller municipalities to form a convoy and tackle the task together. Individual consultations and excursions show what should be considered when drawing up the plan. Innovative solutions are also pointed out, such as agrothermics, which can help supply entire industrial estates with climate-neutral heat. In the next two years, the region aims to support cities and municipalities not only in strategic planning, but also in implementation. Above all, the findings from international projects such as SocialRES or the CSSC Lab can help and act as a real accelerator to establish new operator models or technical solutions



Inconsistent data on biodiversity mainstreaming

For some years now, „biodiversity“ has been recognised by the spell-checker of our word processor, saving billions of unnecessary clicks every year. Admittedly: A rather manageable success of the environmental movement, if the protection of nature and the environment is the yardstick. More relevant is that between 2009 and 2022, according to the Union of Ethical BioTrade, awareness of biodiversity in Germany grew from 29% to 76%. At least in theory, „awareness of something“ is the nucleus of political action. And indeed, there is a lot to report here: The „EU Taxonomy Regulation“, for example, aims to steer investments in sustainable directions by creating clarity as to which economic activities can be considered sustainable and which cannot. One of the criteria is the protection of biodiversity. Another part of the effort is the standardisation of the content of non-financial reports, which in particular companies whose shares are traded on European capital markets must publish.

We notice in our daily work that the EU Taxonomy Regulation is keeping companies very busy. It is remarkable that the idea is not fundamentally questioned: There are uncertainties about its

application - but fundamental criticism is the exception.

Things are moving forward... on the one hand. On the other hand: On the occasion of COP15 in Montreal, the Financial Times (FT) published an article dealing with the 1.8 trillion dollars spent annually worldwide on biodiversity-damaging subsidies. This contrasts with about \$150 billion spent on biodiversity conservation.

This is not new. The discussion about dismantling environmentally harmful subsidies - and the promises to remove them - is getting old. What is new is that the interplay between the climate and biodiversity crises is also increasingly being addressed in mainstream media such as the FT: Subsidies for agriculture contribute to deforestation, deforestation contributes to climate change, climate change contributes to biodiversity loss, and business and society are both drivers and victims of development.

Increasingly, climate change and biodiversity loss are described as elements of a „polycrisis“, in which cause and effect become blurred, feedback loops amplify developments and complete-

ly unforeseen effects can arise. The „polycrisis“ describes the zeitgeist of recent years. Economists who are not familiar with the term are likely to understand it intuitively.

This is an encouraging trend, because it goes hand in hand with the understanding that the answer „We are already doing climate protection“ to the question „What do you think about biodiversity“ makes no sense. The sometimes feared competition between „climate protection vs. protection of biodiversity“ - which is nonsensical anyway - is not compelling. Approaches to combine both - and thus to use considerable synergies - can be realised if we move from the „polycrisis“ to the „poly-solution“.

Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt (UBi): Business & Biodiversity extended

The second phase of Business and Biodiversity UBi is underway - the dialogue and action platform initiated by the Fe-





deral Ministry for the Environment in 2013 to promote exchange and cooperation between business, ministries and NGOs and to encourage action. Lake Constance Foundation and the Global Nature Fund have been involved from the beginning.

The aim is to inform business and economic associations about the interaction between biodiversity and business. They are to motivate their member companies to take biodiversity into account in corporate management in order to reduce negative impacts and make a measurable contribution to the protection of biodiversity. Currently, 38 business associations and nature conservation organisations are participating in UBi. The new phase is coordinated by the Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP).

Informing companies and providing assistance

During the five years of the project, the focus will be on approaching companies - especially small and medium-sized enterprises. The Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce is particularly active here with biodiversity coaching to inspire interested „newcomer“ companies and a roadshow that gives companies an initial overview of what should be considered in good biodiversity management. The activities are accompanied by trained Chambers staff and extensive presence in social media.

Lake Constance Foundation and Global Nature Fund are currently updating the successful guide „EMAS and Biodiversity“, which shows step by step how biodiversity can be soundly managed within the frame of an environmental management system. References to biodiversity in all corporate units are shown and targets, measures

and indicators are proposed. The guide is to be published in March 2023 - there will also be an online check to get started.

Sector-specific approach and instruments

Awareness raising and basic information are the cross-sectoral first step, but support thereafter should be sector-specific and address the impacts and opportunities for action of the different economic sectors.

Our approach to improve biodiversity performance in the food sector through standards with effective biodiversity criteria works. Therefore, GNF and BoSti will analyse and address three other sectors and the corresponding standards and develop recommendations for better and more effective biodiversity criteria.

The Biodiversity Check, which GNF and BoSti developed years ago, will also be specified for five sectors and adapted to their specific requirements. With the Biodiversity Check, companies receive assistance to document and screen the initial situation regarding biodiversity: What concrete references do the company's departments have to biodiversity and where is there a need for action. Which goals and measures should a company include in its environmental or sustainability programme; which indicators are suitable for monitoring. The Biodiversity Check provides companies with important input for a prudent and responsible management of biodiversity.

The financial sector plays a special role and is also specifically addressed within the framework of UBi with recommendations for recording and assessing corporate risks and opportunities with regard to biodiversity. These include assessment criteria for risks in various sec-



Flowering area on the building land reserve of the medium-sized company Quintessence

tors, which financial institutions should take into account in future when granting loans and making investments.

Lighthouse initiatives

Two lighthouse initiatives are part of „Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt“: the long-standing and successful initiative „Naturnahe Firmengelände“ (biodiversity oriented premises (BOP)) of Lake Constance Foundation and its partners, as well as the sector initiative „Food for Biodiversity“, which is coordinated by the Global Nature Fund.

In order to bring biodiversity oriented premises even more into the mainstream, Lake Constance Foundation is working together with the German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB) on a certification for biodiversity oriented premises. On the one hand, this certification will be an incentive for companies to create more space for biodiversity on company premises - and at the same time ensure the quality of the design. National „focal points“ are to motivate and support companies, among other things by obtaining funding programmes for ambitious measures. Certification would prove that the measures have been well implemented. In addition, Lake Constance Foundation is working on the implementation of a monitoring system for biodiversity-oriented pre-



mises. Companies that participate in „Nature Incorporate“ receive an annual monitoring report on the development of their BOPs. The focal points can use a national monitoring report to demonstrate how the initiative is developing in general and where synergies with green infrastructures such as biotope corridors are possible.

The sector initiative „Food for Biodiversity“ was founded in summer 2021. GNF and Lake Constance Foundation have contributed significantly to this. Currently, the association has 30 members who have signed an ambitious self-commitment. Among others, the Basic Set of Biodiversity Criteria is taken into account for agricultural raw materials with a high risk for biodiversity. Training for product and quality managers of companies, incentives from the food sector for farmers to do more for biodiversity and influencing the political framework conditions in favour of biodiversity are among the tasks that are currently being worked on.

Biodiversity in Good Company is the fifth partner in the UBI consortium and is responsible for the implementation of the dialogue forums „Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt“. Furthermore, two competitions for companies are planned with a focus on biodiversity in the supply chain. In addition, BiGC coordinates the international activities and networking of UBI with other initiatives.

A wide range of activities to address business and industry associations intensively and specifically! We hope that the Federal Ministry of Economics will also get actively involved - after all, the initiative is called „Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt“.

Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt is funded by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation as part of the Federal Programme on Biological Diversity.

LIFE-BooGI-BOP: Four years of project work for near-natural company sites in Europe

Since 2018, the Lake Constance Foundation has been working with its partner organisations in Spain, Germany, Austria and Slovakia to create awareness for biodiversity on company premises. And it has paid off:

More than 160 companies across Europe have benefited from the advice and support of the project partners. These ranged from small companies with a few employees to large, globally active companies with many locations. The approaches were varied: from a simple, pragmatic start by upgrading individual areas, to more comprehensive advice on possible overall ecological concepts for a property or the development of biodiversity strategies for entire property portfolios, to the development of approaches for entire industrial estates - including the development of a „reward system“ for companies that are particularly committed to nature-friendly design, a wide range of approaches and possible solutions were developed and tested.

Training for biodiversity

An important element of LIFE BooGI-BOP was training. Especially the introduction to the topic can be difficult for employees in companies who are responsible for the design and maintenance of the outdoor facilities of a

site: What is nature-oriented design all about? What are the basic possibilities and restrictions? What should one look for when commissioning service providers and how can the benefits of nature-based design be maximised? The project partners have jointly offered webinar series for facility managers, in which well over five hundred interested parties have participated. Over the course of the project, the demand for information, training and lectures has grown steadily. In addition to the originally planned training offers, new paths were therefore also taken: another way to bring biodiversity on company premises to the companies was training for trainees, which was one of the results of the cooperation with Deutsche Bahn. On the one hand, the DB trainees wanted to become active themselves at their sites, and on the other hand, they wanted to learn more about the interplay between climate change and biodiversity. To this end, a training and advisory programme was developed in which young people learn more about the importance of biodiversity for the economy and our society in a theory block and then receive practical guidance for „trainee projects“ that they can implement themselves. But the need for information and the interest was not only great directly in the companies: For example, the Weihenstephan University of Applied Sciences - initiated and supported by the project partners - offered a seminar on the topic of „near-natural company grounds“.

Near-natural company premises became a good deal more normal

The extensive networking within the framework of LIFE BooGI-BOP, which accompanied and supported the advisory and information services, has borne much fruit: the project has contributed to the fact that today there is



a lively landscape of projects, initiatives and new actors committed to biodiversity on company premises. In addition to initiatives initiated and supported by nature conservation organisations, there are also initiatives by municipalities and chambers of commerce, some of which are supported by the Lake Constance Foundation. In addition, the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (Reconstruction Loan Corporation) has included „near-natural company sites“ in its environmental programme, so that companies can apply for subsidised loans for the upgrading of their site.

The success of the project also means that the topic of biodiversity on company premises has not come to an end, but has been ensured continuity:

At European level through the „Focal Points“, i.e. national contact points for companies and various stakeholders. In Germany, among other things, through

the project „Unternehmen biologische Vielfalt“ (UBi), in which the monitoring system developed in BooGI-BOP is being further developed and applied, a certification for near-natural company premises is being developed and a national organisation for near-natural company premises is being established.

And on a regional level through the many initiatives that have emerged. Like the cooperation with the Potsdam Chamber of Industry and Commerce or the Ravensburg district. Of course, the Lake Constance Foundation also remains a contact for individual companies.

Last but not least, the topic will live on in other new projects. In 2023, „Azubi-Gärten“ (Trainee Gardens), a project funded by the LUBW, will start, which includes the further training of trainees from various companies and professions on the topic of biodiversity and cli-

mate change adaptation and also includes a practical implementation of these very same biodiversity-promoting trainee gardens on company premises. Further projects are planned and will deal in more detail with the question of how near-natural company grounds can be pragmatically brought into widespread use by systematically implementing them as a measure within the framework of a cross-site environmental management system in larger companies.

Thus, the Lake Constance Foundation can look back on a moving project period and, building on the results, continue to push full steam ahead with the mainstreaming of near-natural company premises.

Project highlights

- **Wetzisreute-Ost industrial area:** The small community of Schlier sets new standards in biodiversity-friendly business areas
Groundbreaking ceremony for the Wetzisreute-Ost industrial estate



- **Real estate management at DB**





Biodiversity in vocational training in landscaping: Landscape gardeners as experts for biodiversity!

Private gardens, company grounds and public green spaces offer great potential to create diverse habitats for animals and plants. People and nature benefit from this in equal measure: Nature-oriented design in settlement areas increases the quality of stay, contributes to a good microclimate and increases overall resilience to the consequences of climate change.

Landscape gardeners have an important role to play here: they implement designs and are responsible for the

professional maintenance of the areas, which are the decisive factor in ensuring that biodiversity persists and develops on site.

In order to support teachers in giving more space to biodiversity in education and training in gardening, landscaping and sports ground construction, the Lake Constance Foundation, in cooperation with „natur art - integrative green concepts“, is developing materials for teaching together with committed teachers at vocational schools and inter-company training centres.

Modules are being developed that convey the importance of biodiversity, explain which species can be supported with different biodiversity elements and how the structures created are maintained. Through hands-on exercises, trainees learn to recognise and maintain existing biodiversity and to create new ones.

Part of the project is also the development of a proposal to revise the plant teaching canon to better combine biodiversity and horticultural aspects: Attractive plantings and biodiversity are of course not contradictory!

Education and training in landscaping is a natural starting point for promoting greater consideration of biodiversity in the medium and long term.

The project is supported by the Ausbildungsförderwerk Garten-, Landschafts- und Sportplatzbau e. V. and the associations for garden, landscape and sports ground construction in Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg.

Biodiversity has reached the management stage. District Administrator Harald Sievers and Chairman of the Liebenau Foundation Dr Markus Nachbaur lend a hand.





Peat is in many potting soils and can already be well replaced today.

Development and implementation of an internationally oriented certification system for peat substitutes



in specialised areas. Together with the Global Nature Fund (GNF), the Lake Constance Foundation is working on the broad field of ecological sustainability and preparing risk analyses. These provide an important basis for the development of the certification system and consider all steps from origin to processing to the use of the peat substitutes compost, wood and coconut fibres.

Peat is in many potting soils and is used in horticulture of vegetable production and for growing young plants. However, the extraction of peat destroys habitats of plants and animals, releases climate-damaging CO₂ and destroys the most important natural store of carbon. The German government's Climate Protection Plan 2050 therefore envisages measures to greatly reduce the use of peat in horticulture and landscaping as well as in hobby gardening.

Since the beginning of 2022, the Lake Constance Foundation has been working on a project to develop and implement an international certification system for peat substitutes. The aim of the project is to reduce or minimise the use of peat in planting substrates through a certification system. Under the coordination of Meo Carbon Solutions GmbH, various partners are contributing their background knowledge

Based on this, the Lake Constance Foundation contributed to a list of criteria for auditors. In a joint meeting with Meo Carbon, the GNF and auditors from Germany, the Netherlands and India, critical points during inspections were discussed.



Planetary Health Diet - eating better for our planet!

Global food production has a decisive influence on the destruction of the environment, climate change and the overstepping of planetary boundaries. Currently, 40 per cent of land is used for agriculture. Food production causes about 30 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions and swallows about 70 per cent of all fresh water consumption. On the other hand, the consequences of malnutrition are dramatic worldwide. While more than 820 million people go hungry, about two billion people suffer from overweight or are obese. Diet-related diseases such as diabetes, cancer and cardiovascular diseases are among the most frequent causes of death. In order to feed all the world's people in the future not only healthily but also sustainably, we need a fundamental improvement in our agriculture and nutrition worldwide.

With the so-called „Planetary Health Diet“, the EAT-Lancet Commission has

now presented a concept that shows how about 10 billion people on earth can be fed healthily by 2050 without destroying the foundations of life on earth. In order to stay within the ecological limits of our planet, we all have to eat twice as much fruit and vegetables, legumes and nuts, and halve our consumption of meat and sugar. That actually sounds more like enjoyment and less like renunciation... In addition to this adapted diet, food production must be improved and food waste greatly reduced.

What would such a change in diet mean for the agricultural and food sector in Germany? A very readable study by the Öko-Institut (September 2022) commissioned by Greenpeace comes to exciting conclusions. If we follow the Planetary Health Diet in the future, we would not only be much healthier, but agricultural greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions would fall very sharply. Since

the cultivation of animal feed would be drastically reduced, additional carbon could be sequestered on the freed-up land, e.g. through afforestation. In this way, agricultural production in Germany would be almost climate-neutral. Alternatively, food could continue to be grown on the land in a sustainable manner, thus feeding around 70 million more people along the lines of the Planetary Health Diet.

As the Lake Constance Foundation, we want to increasingly work on these findings in our projects in the future and work together with agriculture and the food industry to ensure that the Planetary Health Diet becomes a tasty menu for all of us as quickly as possible.





LIFE Regions that support insects - so that the country is buzzing again!

The expansion of agricultural land and increasingly intensive production systems are having a dramatic impact on biodiversity: land-use change and destruction of primary ecosystems, overuse and pollution of water and soil, as well as environmental pollution and the introduction of invasive species. In the case of cultivated plants and livestock, both species diversity and the intraspecific diversity of varieties and breeds, and thus genetic diversity, are steadily declining.

On the other hand, agriculture is important for the conservation of biodiversity, as many species and habitats are closely linked to agricultural use. With over 47% or 210 million hectares of arable land and grassland, almost half of Europe's land (EU-27) is used for agriculture. It is estimated that 50% of European species depend on agricultural habitats. From an ecological point of view, the consequences of changing cultivation methods for flora and fauna on agricultural land and adjacent habitats are therefore of great importance. For two years, the LIFE Insect Supporting Regions project has been supporting the protection of biodiversity and especially insects at the regional level with a variety of approaches and at different levels. In the meantime, the establishment of Insect-Friendly Regions (IFR) has made it possible to implement or test numerous proven measures as well as more innovative practices to promote pollinating insects in agriculture.

The regional alliances are growing steadily

Together with the project partners Global Nature Fund, Netzwerk Blühende Landschaft, Bäuerliche Erzeugergemeinschaft Schwäbisch Hall and Nestlé Germany, the alliances for the protection of insects with regional land users and food producers are constantly growing in seven project regions. Regional working groups with representatives from associations, science and administration support this process by opening up existing networks for our project and concretely naming and locating the need for measures to promote insects. As a result, the number of interested institutions, businesses and municipalities is constantly increasing. Examples include the Karlsruhe Orchard Initiative, the municipality of Wiesloch and the Neckar-Odenwald Nature Park. These institutions with a high area impact will be included in the project from 2023.

Demonstration farms show how it is done

So far, 18 pilot farms in the insect-promoting regions of the Upper Rhine and Lake Constance, which are supervised by the Lake Constance Foundation, have agreed to participate in the project. Based on the application of the Biodiversity Performance Tool and through in-depth consultations, a very diverse portfolio of measures has been established on these farms. This ranges from agroforestry, to beneficial insect flowering strips, intercropping and flowering tramlines in vines. The landscape diversity of the Upper Rhine and Lake Constance IFRs is reflected in the diversity of the farms and in the measures implemented there.

The effectiveness of the measures is monitored by entomological surveys.

In the vegetation phase 2022, the extent to which old grass strips (Lake Constance IFR) and beneficial strips in potato fields (Upper Rhine IFR) influence the diversity and frequency of wild bees, wasps and butterflies was examined in particular. It is very pleasing that numerous wild bees and rare wasps could be observed in the strips.

Our efforts to pass on the experiences with the individual measures on the demonstration farms resulted in five articles for agricultural trade magazines in 2022. In this way, we want to encourage and enable farms to copy our practical protection concepts (see publications at www.insektenregionen.org).

Insect protection in communities

In 2022, the municipality of Leimen entered into a project cooperation. The municipality of Wiesloch is aiming for a cooperation in 2023. In the medium term, this exciting cooperation will result in the transformation of considerable parts of the urban areas in both municipalities. In addition to the municipal administration, these activities are also supported by already established citizens' initiatives that are committed to preserving biodiversity. Through the ongoing exchange between the Lake Constance Foundation and representatives of local environmental associations and initiatives, there are always new opportunities to do more for insects. An example of this is the creation of an educational garden in cooperation with the Protestant parish of Leimen. In this garden, plants that are particularly important for nocturnal insects are to be introduced.



Improving insect and biodiversity literacy in agriculture and beyond

Until winter 2022, various training courses were held in the Upper Rhine and Lake Constance project regions and beyond. A total of nearly 200 people were trained in online or face-to-face events and during field visits. In addition to agroforestry and biodiversity management in different crops and permanent grassland, the training content focused on the implementation of insect conservation in urban areas

and forests. For example, in the Rhine-Neckar and Constance regional forestry offices, almost 50 forestry decision-makers were trained on the cultivation and upbringing of insect-promoting forest trees. The main focus of training for municipal employees is the insect-friendly maintenance and design of green spaces. In addition, committed citizens are advised on their options for action by being given repeated access to action sheets that show how small changes in private gardens can increase the density and diversity of insects.

The project is funded by the LIFE programme of the European Union. Other donors of the Lake Constance Foundation are DBU, MLR Baden-Württemberg, Landwirtschaftliche Rentenbank, Deutsche Postcode Lotterie and the Lake Constance District. More information, also on other activities in the project, at www.insektenregionen.org.



Beneficial strips subdivide potato fields, provide food habitat for insects and lead to reduced use of pesticides.

More biodiversity in commercial orchards

Since 2019, the Lake Constance Foundation has been working on upgrading the commercial orchards participating in the project „Orchard Model Plants for the Promotion of Biodiversity“ through biodiversity-promoting measures, communicating the results to the outside world and producing

training and information documents. A total of six model orchards were established at Lake Constance and in the Rhine-Neckar region. The medium-term goal is to integrate the biodiversity-promoting measures implemented in these orchards as a basic set in all commercial orchards in the future.

What measures are involved? Above all, it is about additional food and habitat offers for insects, spiders and birds, but also other small animals such as li-

zards, bats & Co. The positive effect of these measures has already been proven by the annual monitoring of wild bees, birds, grasshoppers and herbaceous plants since 2020.

In addition, training materials on the topic of biodiversity were produced this year for the fruit-growing colleges, but also for all those interested in fruit growing. In addition to the already existing basic teaching unit on the topic of biodiversity, further smaller



teaching units have now been developed. All documents are available free of charge on the project website www.obstbau-biodiv.de.

The project is funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Rural Areas and Consumer Protection and coordinated by the Baden-Württemberg Land Agency.



Flowering strips and extensive structures with wild bee hotels contribute to the promotion of biodiversity in commercial orchards.

PRO PLANET Biodiversity Project meets at Lake Constance

Nature conservation experts from NABU, Birdlife Austria and the Lake Constance Foundation have been responsible for the nature conservation supervision of the PRO PLANET biodiversity project (fruit and vegetables) in Germany and Austria for many years. In September, the traditional summer meeting of more than 20 conservationists took place for the first time at Lake Constance. The focus of the two-day meeting was on further project development and experiences in project implementation in dessert fruit orchards and vegetable fields. Practical experience on the topic of „biodiversity in dessert fruit growing“ was provided during an afternoon tour of several project areas and a model plantation under the expert guidance of Katja Röser from the Marktgemeinschaft Bodenseeobst.



Exchange of experience between nature conservation and fruit growing at Lake Constance

A scoring system for biodiversity in the countryside

In the project „Development of a market-oriented evaluation framework for biodiversity services in agriculture in Baden-Württemberg“, the Institute for Agroecology and Biodiversity (ifab) and the Lake Constance Foundation are developing a points system to

measure and evaluate how farmers in Baden-Württemberg who produce for the Baden-Württemberg Quality Label (QZBW) contribute to biodiversity conservation. The two-year project is funded by the Ministry of Food, Rural Areas and Consumer Protection Baden-Württemberg (MLR). In the first year of the project, work was carried out with 14 pilot farms and a draft for the points system was created. In 2023, this evaluation framework will be tested on 50



farms and adapted if necessary. The goal is better payment for products produced with added value for biodiversity, clean water and healthy soils. Interesting and forward-looking is also the exchange with another MLR project, which is about the digitalisation of value chains as a starting point for more sustainability within the framework of QZBW.

CAP4GI - Common Agricultural Policy for Diverse Landscapes

The new EU agricultural funding period starts in 2023. No one is really satisfied, neither farmers, nor conservationists, nor taxpayers. But how should the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the agri-environmental programmes of the Länder be designed so that farmers can do more for the environment, nature conservation and biodiversity and at the same time their farms benefit?

This is what the Lake Constance Foundation wants to find out together with adelphi, Deutscher Naturschutzring, Wildtierland Hainich gGmbH, University of Rostock, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) and German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv). The BMBF is funding the project as part of its FONA strategy.

At exchange platforms in three regions of Baden-Württemberg, which the Lake Constance Foundation organises once a year for three years, farmers can name obstacles and propose and discuss solutions. In addition, our research partners find out how farmers

decide whether and which measures to implement. From this, they develop a model that shows how the CAP measures offered and the decisions farmers make about them affect biodiversity on the ground.

In autumn, qualitative interviews with farmers were conducted by the University of Rostock. With the topics mentioned, the platforms can now be planned for the beginning of 2023. The Thuringian practice partner has already held its first platform meetings. The first field surveys by iDiv and UFZ, e.g. on birds, butterflies or soil moisture, have also already taken place in Thuringia and in the Hohenlohe region.

Food for Biodiversity

If we want to make a decisive step forward in halting the loss of biodiversity, the whole food sector must move and work together with agriculture to ensure that food is grown and produced in a more biodiversity-friendly way.

This is the main objective of the sector initiative „Food for Biodiversity“, which was founded as an association in sum-

mer 2021 with the support of Global Nature Fund and Lake Constance Foundation and includes currently 29 members. Food producers and retailers are working together with standards, scientific institutions and NGOs to implement the ambitious work programme:

So far, ten pilot projects have been launched to test the implementation of the Basic Set of Biodiversity Criteria with about 60 requirements in the cultivation of various raw materials: Potatoes (Kaufland), fruit and vegetables (REWE), apricots (Zentis), wheat (Nestlé), coffee (4C Coffee Standard) are some of the pilots that are accompanied by content by the environmental organisations NABU, WWF, GNF and LCF. To track and evaluate the results, the Biodiversity Monitoring System has been revised and is available to all members free of charge. The training events together with the Federal Association of the Food Industry were a great success. And tree training modules are in preparation with the Federal Association of the Food Trade, starting in January 2023. Other important aspects on the agenda for 2023 include an overview of successful incentive schemes provided by food companies to help farmers im-

What can an agricultural policy look like that helps the environment, the biodiversity and the farmers?





prove biodiversity conservation. Recommendations for communication activities to raise awareness among consumers about the value of biodiversity for secure food production are in preparation as well.

Biodiversity Performance Tool (BPT) Coffee

Lake Constance Foundation supported the 4C Coffee Standard in implementing a pilot project to apply the Biodiversity Performance Tool Coffee (BPT) to smallholder coffee plantations in Vietnam. The BPT was adapted and successfully applied by the regional environmental organisation ADC on five plantations. Currently, the farmers are implementing their Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs). A BPT convoy is also being prepared to involve the entire cooperative in a regional BAP.

Up to now, six standards have significantly improved their biodiversity criteria, which also has a positive impact on the procurement requirements of German retailers, because they require these certifications from producers. More than 150 farms have completed the Biodiversity Check Agrícola (BCA) and are now implementing a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). This includes measures for the protection of habitats and species as well as measures for very good agricultural practices to reduce negative impacts on biodiversity: Integrated Pest Management and the use of beneficial insects instead of chemical pesticides, soil conservation, water and waste management. A Biodiversity Performance App supports farmers in monitoring the implementation of their biodiversity action plan.

Already 300,000 hectares have been ecologically upgraded through project measures. More than 13,000 people involved in banana and pineapple cultivation have received direct support through the project. In addition to in-kind contributions, companies along the value chain invest over 1,000,000 euros in biodiversity measures. Training modules for agricultural assessors and farmers have been developed and about 200 people have been trained. Further trainings are planned.

As part of the biodiversity ideas competition, 32 producers with a biodiversity-friendly business concept were selected. They invest around 640,000 euros in their projects and receive the same amount for advice and for materials and equipment to implement the measures. Two biotope corridors were planned in Costa Rica and one in the Dominican Republic in banana and pineapple growing areas. Now, food companies and other actors of the supply chain are approached to invest in measures to build and reinforce the biotope corridors.

The consumer campaign for more biodiversity was launched in Germany and will continue until the end of the project. Further campaigns in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic as well as in other European countries are in preparation.



Communication campaign in Costa Rica.



Del Campo al Plato: Protecting biodiversity in banana and pineapple cultivation

For three years now, Lake Constance Foundation and Global Nature Fund have been supporting the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) in the project „Del Campo al Plato“ with the aim of making the cultivation of bananas and pineapples more biodiversity-friendly. What has been achieved so far in the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Germany and beyond?

GeNIAL – An educational project on adapting agriculture to climate change

During the almost two-and-a-half-year project, which was funded by the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), numerous training and information documents were produced under the leadership of the Lake Constance Foundation together with the project partners Landesbetrieb Landwirtschaft Hessen (LLH), Landesanstalt für Landwirtschaft, Ernährung und ländlichen Raum (LEL) and Landwirtschaftliches Technologiezentrum Augustenberg, as well as workshops for practitioners on the topic of climate change and adaptation. The aim was



to sensitise farmers, gardeners, fruit, wine and vegetable growers to climate change and to enable them to implement measures individually adapted to their farms in order to increase their resilience to climate change.

Which target groups should be reached? In the future, the training materials for agricultural colleges will be used to win over young farmers for this topic. 18 teaching units on different topics are available to teachers for their lessons - from information on climate change in general, fertilisation, plant protection, stable construction, grassland to fruit, wine and vegetable growing as well as climate protection, to name just a few topics. Teaching modules describing a possible teaching sequence, PPT presentations, work assignments for students, auxiliary documents and further information have been developed for each topic area.

The aim is to provide teachers with a low-threshold teaching offer in order to firmly anchor this important topic in lessons in the future.

For the advisory staff as multipliers of climate change knowledge, advisory concepts were prepared on the basis of specially conducted workshops and further training events. These documents are particularly helpful with regard to the choice of topics, preparation on checklists or tips on how to create your own videos or how to conduct online events, which were in full swing during the Corona pandemic.

Directly addressing practitioners

During the project period, several workshops and field days were held on various adaptation topics, few as face-to-face events, but increasingly in online format. Topics included grassland management in the course of climate

change, chickpea cultivation or maize-bean mixtures. Above all, the participation of farms as speakers was appreciated by the participants - an exchange at eye level! Some of the online seminars were recorded and can be listened to again on the project website.

The ClimateCheck brochures are of interest to farmers, who can use them as a first step to find out how vulnerable their farm already is to climate change or how well they have already adapted. These brochures were created for arable and livestock farms.

The project ended in June 2022. All documents are still available for free download on the project homepage www.genial-klima.de.

For some farms, the cultivation of a batch can be a building block for adapting agriculture to climate change. Photo: Lake Constance Foundation Imprint





Green Vineyards – making the wine sector climate-friendly

For mammoth tasks such as the sustainable transformation of food production to succeed, there needs to be a vision and well-trained people to pursue it. To be able to implement the Green Deal, the Joint European Research Centre (JRC) for Agriculture developed the GreenComp, a Green Competence Framework.

Based on this, the partners in the Green Vineyards project are developing a „Green Competence Framework“ for the wine industry. Like the GreenComp developed for agriculture, the Green Competence Framework for the wine industry identifies a set of sustainability competences. This forms the basis for training modules that are also being developed in the project. They help workers to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes to meet current and future challenges in viticulture, including climate change, with sound knowledge and a sense of responsibility.

For this purpose, a draft of the competence framework was developed this year with experts and evaluated in a survey among wine industry stakeholders such as winegrowers, wine trade, consulting and research institutions, in Spain, France, Italy, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Northern Macedonia. In subsequent more detailed discussions with selected representatives of the different

sectors, the results were discussed in more depth and further competences were identified.

The Green Vineyards project is funded by the European Union under the Erasmus+ programme for 30 months until 2024. In the project, a team is working with organisations from Spain, France, Italy, Germany and Northern Macedonia.



Green Vineyards teaches „green skills“ to prepare the wine sector for current and future challenges.

A web tool for sustainable adaptation in Europe

The LIFE-AgriAdapt team has collaborated with Copernicus, the European

Union's Earth Observation Programme, to demonstrate the uses of Climate Change Service (C3S) data for climate change adaptation in agriculture. The newly released tool offers an easy-to-use interactive tool that visualises key indicators for the future and provides easy-to-understand graphs showing climate trends. For example, it shows what risks there could be for cereal crops in a particular location in Europe in the near future. This requires a high geographical resolution and the inclusion of specific agro-climatic indicators. This new application, and the scientific accuracy it provides, can lead to an improvement in the adaptation of agriculture to climate change. The link to the application can be found in the „News“ section of the Lake Constance Foundation website.

BLITZ – Bioeconomy for farmers of the future

Baden-Württemberg has had its own bioeconomy strategy since 2017, thus recognising it as a key approach to solving global challenges such as climate change, resource depletion and waste. To promote the bioeconomy, the Lake Constance Foundation, together with the University of Hohenheim, has produced training and information materials for agricultural colleges in Baden-Württemberg.



Bioeconomy - what is it actually?

This abstract term refers to a way of doing business in which new methods and technologies are used to make better use of biological substances and processes in order to increasingly dispense with fossil raw materials such as coal or petroleum. The starting materials are plant, animal and microbial substances.

For example, a guide was created for teachers explaining bioeconomic terms and how to use the training materials. Teaching units on different topics are available to teachers. The units consist of a teaching module, a PPT presentation, work assignments for the students as well as auxiliary documents and further information.



To make the topic more tangible for the students, a material kit was compiled containing various materials produced from agricultural raw and residual materials, such as packaging materials made from straw, fertilizer products, insect-based foods and much more. Additional accompanying cards tell the story behind these products. The suitcase can be borrowed from the University of Hohenheim.

The training and information documents are available for free download at www.bodensee-stiftung.org/blitz/.

LIFE Clean Air Farming - Air pollution control through agriculture

After a project duration of three and a half years, the LIFE project Clean Air Farming came to an end in July 2022. The aim of the project was to reduce methane and ammonia emissions from agriculture. In the process, the Lake Constance Foundation raised awareness of the issue among agricultural associations in Germany as well as life companies in Germany and in Europe.

A survey at the beginning of the project showed that there were great differences in the associations' assessment of which measures to reduce methane and ammonia emissions are practicable and which have great reduction potential. At three round

tables, a position paper was drawn up with agricultural associations, with demands on politicians so that German agriculture can make a greater contribution to air pollution control. One of the main demands is the stronger inclusion of air pollution control measures in agricultural education and training as well as in expert advice. The Lake Constance Foundation focuses on this area through projects such as GeNIAL and continues to work there.

Food companies and standards were also addressed in the project with the development of recommendations for the integration of emission reduction measures into their guidelines and criteria. The work with associations and companies in the project confirmed that a joint consideration of all issues related to sustainable agriculture is necessary in the future to better reach the agricultural associations and the food sector.

Effective measures to reduce methane
and ammonia emissions are possible in
manure management





Climate protection in agriculture

Interest in ACCT 2020 and the Lake Constance Foundation's climate protection expertise continues unabated. In 2022, the Foundation again received numerous requests for cooperation and was able to process numerous orders. Last but not least, this great interest is reinforced by the food retail trade (LEH), which is increasingly demanding greenhouse gas savings from producers. The pressure is particularly strong in the dairy sector, which is also the reason for the current focus of agricultural climate protection work at the Lake Constance Foundation.

Projects in the dairy industry

In 2022, the cooperation with the Champignon cheese dairy and the five lighthouse farms was continued. In individual consultations, but also as a group, the farms have drawn up clear action plans and started to implement these climate protection measures. The exchange between the farms, moderated and guided by the Lake Constance Foundation and organised and technically supported by the Champignon cheese dairy, is seen by all participants as very profitable. In the future, the results, experiences and especially the successes are to be shared with all supplier farms and the climate protection competence of all farmers is to be increased in webinars and during farm tours.

The Lake Constance Foundation has agreed on a five-year cooperation with the private dairy Bechtel in Franconia. Together, a coordinated „quick check“ was designed to complement the rather elaborate ACCT balances. Based on about 20 parameters, each participating farm receives climate points. This quick check is completed by more

than 300 farms every year and forms the basis for the payment of a climate protection bonus. In order to verify the results, but also the entries, about 60 farms are also balanced with ACCT every year. In addition to climate protection, animal welfare is also taken into account and rewarded in the bonus programme of the Bechtel private dairy. It is 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. A total of around 50 million euros is available for these bonuses over five years.

ACCT Trainings

Due to the Corona pandemic, initial experience had to be gained in conducting online training. A virtue was made of necessity, and further online-only training courses were held in 2022 with significantly reduced time and travel requirements. As a result, participants from northern Germany, Switzerland and South Tyrol were able to take part in one training course.

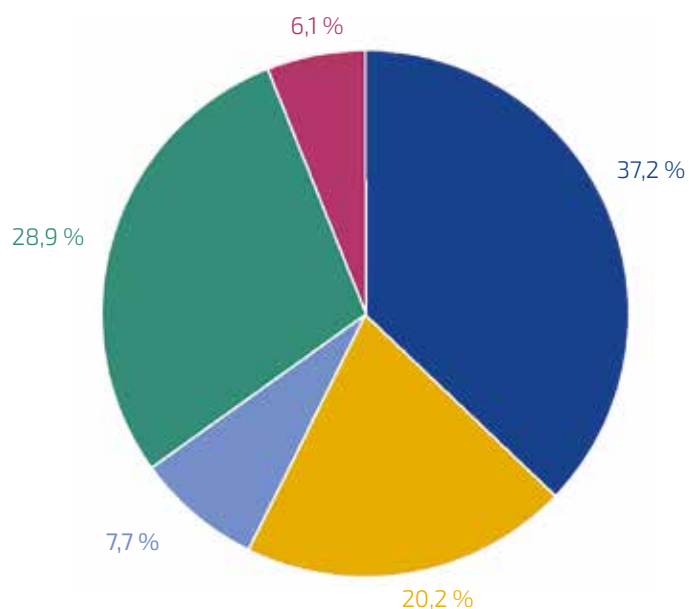
All those who completed the training received a certificate of participation and the latest ACCT-2020 version free of charge, and are automatically part of the ACCT advisory network.






Always on the pulse of time

The Lake Constance Foundation is also represented in numerous working groups and committees. The TheKLa network is a nationwide association of experts for climate protection in agriculture. In the working group on agricultural climate advice, the focus is on the exchange of practice between climate protection advisors. The Lake Constance Foundation is also involved in the BEK working group (calculation standard for individual farm climate balances) and in the scientific advisory boards of various climate protection projects of Nestle, Lidl or the private dairy Bechtel. What is important about this commitment is, on the one hand, networking with other competent actors, and on the other hand, continuous training and exchange with science and practice.



Revenues 2021



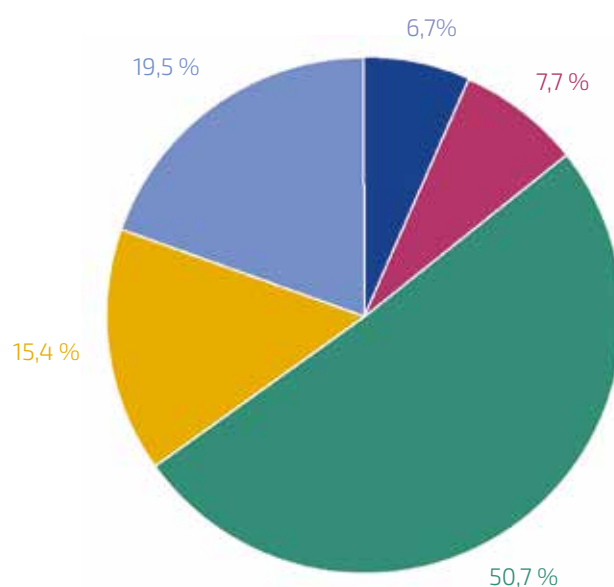
	EU COMMISSION	519.496 €
	NATIONAL MINISTRIES	281.983 €
	STATE MINISTRIES, AUTHORITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES	107.194 €
	PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS AND COMPANIES	404.568 €
	DONATIONS, OTHER	84.663 €






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 increasing role.

In 2022, we were once again able to secure funding for our project work and launch new innovative ideas!

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!

Expenses 2021



	OVERALL COORDINATION / OVERHEAD COSTS	88.974 €
	NATURE & LAKE CONSERVATION	102.318 €
	BUSINESS & BIODIVERSITY	676.856 €
	AGRICULTURE & CLIMATE	205.936 €
	ENERGY TRANSITION	260.456 €

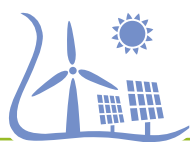
An overview of the income and expenditure of the implemented projects and other activities of the Lake Constance Foundation in 2021 can be found on these pages. The expenses are assigned to our fields of action. We have structured the income according to the funding sources. The Lake Constance

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 opinion can be viewed on the Lake Constance Foundation's homepage.

EVENTS 2022

The Lake Constance Foundation contributed expertise and project results at a number of events. The majority of events took place online. Here is a selection:



ENERGY TRANSITION

- March: annual exchange between NGOs and local authority with Mr. Gröger, mayor of Radolfzell
- April: Parents for Future, Möggingen
- April: Putting people at the heart of energy transitions, Antwerpen
- September: Circular Bioeconomy, Konstanz
- September: Energy systems in transition - opportunities for the region, Insel Mainau
- October: 9th Solar Industry Day Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart
- October: 4th Konstanz Sustainability Conference
- October: Expert workshop „Responsible design of technological innovations for the energy transition
- October: Urban City Talks, Stuttgart
- October: DBU Symposium „Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving - Solutions for the Climate Crisis“, Magdeburg
- November: SolarLAGO, partner event, Konstanz



AGRICULTURE & THE FOOD SECTOR

- February: Workshop on the planned LEADER region of Western Lake Constance
- February: Webinar working group Sustainability & working group Raw material security of the AöL (Association of Organic Food Producers)
- May: Expert talk to Agricultural climate protection measures in Climate protection instant programme (DNR)
- June: German Nature Conservation Day (DNT), Hannover
- June: Webinar „Sustainable Food Systems through Value Chain Approaches - Evidence from Science & Practice“ (HORIZON project Contracts 2.0)
- July: Visit of the Biodiversity model plant in Heuchlingen (LVWO) by Minister Peter Hauk (MLR BaWü)
- July: Panel presentation at Biofach, Nürnberg
- August: Visit to the Biodiversity model plant in Konstanz (Obsthof Romer) by Minister Peter Hauk (MLR BaWü)
- September: 101st Main Agricultural Festival in Stuttgart
- September: WG meeting on the BMEL feasibility study „Fair Prices“
- November: Strategic Forum „Land Use in Transition“ of DAFA (German Agricultural Research Alliance), Berlin
- November: LIFE Platform Meeting „LIFE innovates Climate Action
- November: Contracts 2.0 Expert Workshop Agri-Environment Schemes (Value Chain Approaches), Berlin
- November: Working Group „A Network for Farming: Nature Conservation as a Business Model“ in the framework of the Strategy Dialogue Agriculture Baden-Württemberg
- November: TheKLa Expert Network, Straubing
- December: Strategy dialogue on agriculture of the state of Baden-Württemberg
- December: Federal Strategic Dialogue of the BMEL on the CAP Strategic Plan
- December: The LfL Climate Check in practical application



NATURE & LAKE CONSERVATION

- April: Outdoor Festival, Chiemsee
- May: Lake Constance CleanUP Days
- July: Mainau Sustainability Dialogue, Konstanz
- July: Action Day „Meeting Point Nature“, Königsfeld
- December: 16th International Living Lakes Conference on Lake Titicaca, Puno, Peru



UNTERNEHMEN & BIOLOGISCHE VIELFALT

- January: Seminar series on bird strike
- March: Nature conservation in conversation: LNV expert exchange
- March: Climate Neutral Municipality Congress - Climate Impact Adaptation - New Requirements for Urban Land Use Planning
- March: DGNB Seminar Series Urban Future: Multifunctional Design of Commercial Areas
- May: Green Deal and Biodiversity, Potsdam
- May: Energy Scouts, Villingen
- June: Open forum „Near-natural company sites: Biodiversity on commercial sites on the way into the mainstream?!“ at the German Nature Conservation Day, Hannover
- September: Green Premises, Wiesbaden
- September: Biodiversity in Procurement and Construction
- September: UBi - Digital Dialogue
- October: Business & Biodiversity Summit, Brüssel
- November: DGNB Seminar Series Urban Future: Designing Commercial Areas Multifunctionally

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Memberships 2022

- Aktionsbündnis für gentechnikfreie Landwirtschaft in Baden-Württemberg
- Arbeitskreis Grünland des NGP Baar
- Begleitkommission Benken/Schweiz, Expertengruppe für die Schweizer End-lagerstandortsuche
- Bio Austria Vorarlberg
- Bioenergie-Regionen
- Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR)
- DIN Spiegelausschuss zur Erarbeitung der ISO 268
- ECOCAMPING
- ECOTRANS – Netzwerk für nachhaltige
- Europäisches Bodenbündnis ELSA
- European Partnership for Sustainability Management for Local and Regional Authorities
- Franz- und Hildegard Rohr-Vogelschutz Stiftung (Sitz in der Bodensee-Stiftung)
- Initiative Gentechnikfreie Bodenseeregion
- Integrierte ländliche Entwicklung Bodensee e.V.
- Internationales Seennetzwerk Living Lakes
- ISCC International Sustainability & Carbon Certification
- Klimaallianz Baden-Württemberg
- Kompetenzzentrum Wasser Bodensee e.V.
- „Nachhaltigkeitsmanagement für Kommunen“
- Landschaftserhaltungsverband Konstanz
- LEADER Westlicher Bodensee
- Netzwerk Blühende Landschaft
- Netzwerk Lebendige Seen Deutschland
- Netzwerk Stiftungen und Bildung im Bundesverband Deutscher Stiftungen
- Netzwerk Umwelttechnologie BSM
- Netzwerk Agrar-Klima-Beratung
- Plattform Erneuerbare Energien BW
- Steering Committee des EU ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme
- TheKLa – Bundesweites Expertennetzwerk Treibhausgas-bilanzierung und Klimaschutz in der Landwirtschaft
- Tourismus Untersee
- Tourismuspolitik in Europa
- Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt 2020, eine Initiative des Bundesumweltministeriums, Wirtschaftsverbänden und Umweltorganisationen
- Umweltgutachter-Ausschuss
- Umweltrat Bodensee
- Verein „Food for Biodiversity“

Supporters 2022



Cooperations 2022



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You can receive current information about our activities and projects through our newsletter (approx. 3-4 times a year). Please register for this on our homepage:

www.bodensee-stiftung.org



We look forward to your
CONTRIBUTION!

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„Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only way that has ever succeeded.“

Margaret Mead

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