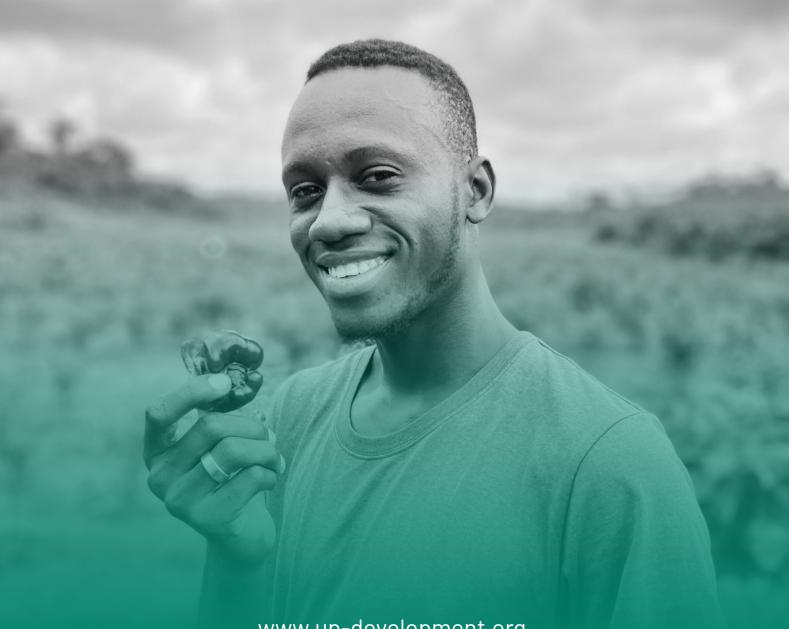


Annual Report 2022



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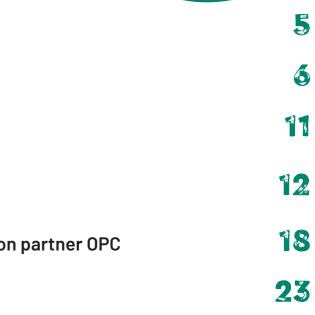
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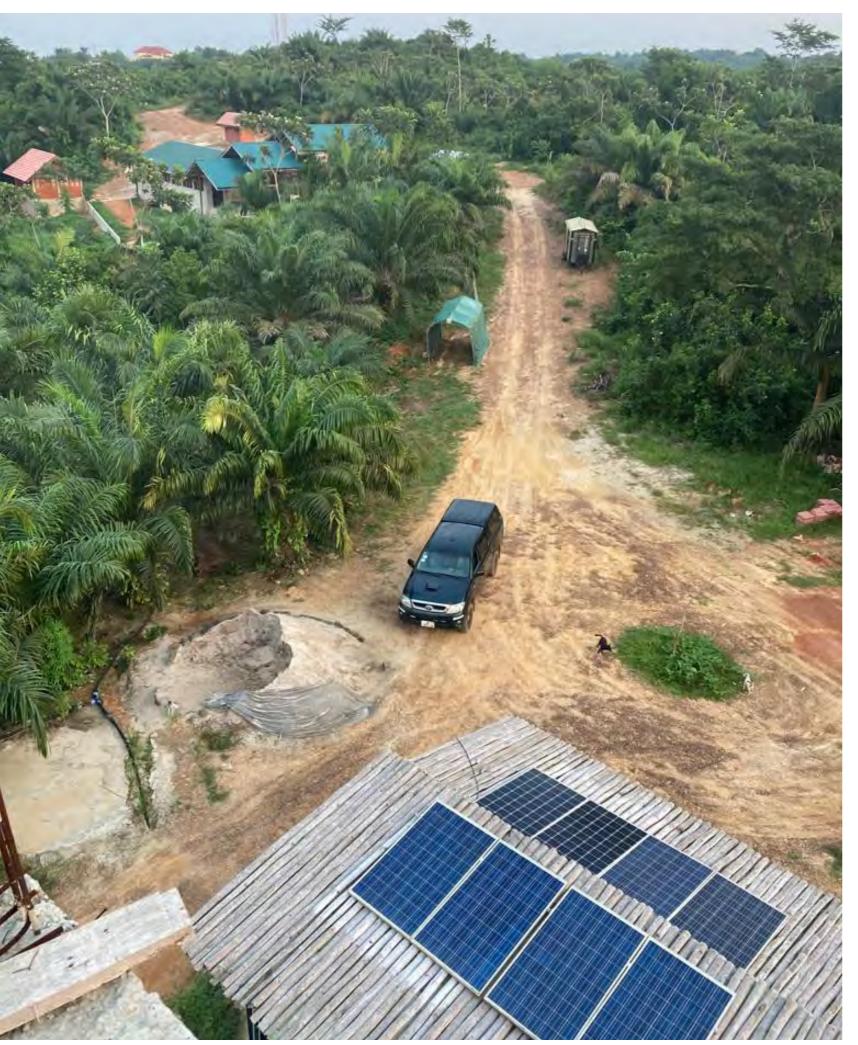
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FORWORD

Dear Reader,

"Finally, Corona is over!" That's not quite true, but that's probably what many people thought in 2022, including me. When your freedom is curtailed more than usual for a while, you suddenly realise how free you actually were before. No sooner is one problem "solved" than the next one pops up: Putin is attacking Ukraine. There has always been war somewhere on our planet in recent decades, but a protracted war so close to home, so present in the media, has not happened for guite a long time.

And then there are the so-called electricity shortages and the climate crisis, more or less new phenomena that are now attracting more and more attention from the general public. It also seems that the "fat years" are over, and key interest rates are being raised all over the world to save our financial and economic system. The word inflation has been heard by pretty much everyone in 2022, and while in Europe people complain about record high inflation of around 10%, here in Ghana it is more than 50%! What happened to the currency and the local economy in Ghana in 2022 was simply surreal; prices rose every week, even every day. No planning, no budget helped any more, everything became a single uncertainty.

History is repeating, the current events show once again that we cannot continue like this. Each and every one of us, I am convinced even the oil sheikhs, know deep down that Mother Earth is part of us. We can only be well if the planet is well. Many companies, even large ones, have already started to be part of the solution. As a company, you have to know today how you have to be tomorrow in order to survive. And tomorrow is circular economy, tomorrow is regeneration, tomorrow is no more overexploitation, and those who do it will be asked to pay for it and thus profitability will decrease. Only unfortunately, the current system has a depreciation cycle that is designed for two to three decades. These two to three decades belong to us; by 2050 we must have completed the restructuring of the financial and economic system for the sake of our children.

In this respect, it is a great pleasure to inform you that we have completed the majority of the main structures of our training centre in 2022 and are now starting training and operations. We continue to live by Gandhi: "be the change you wish to see in the world", and it is clear that our authentic approach inspires young and old to actively contribute to the solution themselves. I am convinced that this is one of the reasons why we were able to convince the SDC and SNSF committee to fund our largest project to date. You can read more about this in the sections Project Work und Press Review.

Without your great support, dear reader, none of this would be possible. For this I thank you! I hope you enjoy reading the annual report.

Yours sincerely,

Researcher, Advisor and Farmer Dr Christian Andres President UP Development



REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The world is going downhill, we are going steadily uphill. Or just: UP.

"Competence Centre for Sustainable Social Enterprises and Circular Economy" project in Busua, Ghana

In 2022, we have largely completed the construction of the sustainable infrastructure of our learning centre. The four sectors of the centre (farm (ecological), commercial department (economic), education department (social and cultural), and administration and accommodation (cross-dimensional aspects)) are developing very well at the same time.

On the farm, we have completed the workshop, added an outdoor kitchen to the food centre and added a completely new building, the sanitary complex. In the commercial department (sustainable palm oil and soap value chain), we completed the construction of the shop and added a steam and hot water system for the oil and soap. In the training department, we have completed the school and started training in social entrepreneurship in the field of ecology. By far the largest structure of our centre, the 240m² event centre is still under construction (currently roofing). We look forward to moving forward with the event centre as one of our main building projects in 2023. In the administration and accommodation department, we completed our three-storey guesthouse and converted the building previously used as a workshop into a reception.

In 2022, we continued to be completely off-grid in terms of electricity. We have expanded our solar installations and are now looking forward to connecting the land to grid electricity in 2023 so that we can also start up the commercial department.

In 2022, we have really felt the sustained increase in soil fertility; due to the continuous use of the organic fertilisers, the soil is retaining more water and the crops are thriving. Lots of certified organic vegetables, salads, fruits, herbs, staple foods, mushrooms, honey and of course the nuts from the sustainably grown oil palms are testimony to this. With freshly harvested, natural food as daily medicine, as well as beneficial herbal teas straight from our medicinal garden, people and animals are healthy and resilient. Thus, malaria and other adversities have little chance at OPC, which also noticeably arouses more and more interest from our neighbours, who fetch clean water from us every day.





"Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Agroforestry" project in Mankessim, Ghana

In 2022, we changed our strategy and started growing maize on the fertile biomass strips, which resulted in very good yields and minimal infestation with the fall armyworm. At the same time, we expanded the cultivation of Bio-Suisse certified pineapples and harvested about 20 tonnes of pineapples for the first time. This is our medium-term strategy while we work on raising the long-term bearing trees. We have planted about 1,000 trees, mainly plantain, coconut and oil palm. We also harvested a lot of organic vegetables and were able to grow and harvest crops in drier periods thanks to the use of water-conserving cover crops. We also set up our own shop in the nearby market town of Mankessim, where we can now market our organic food directly.

Furthermore, the long-term focus of the project is to build a centre of excellence that promotes agroforestry as a way to foster a sustainable way of life for people in harmony with nature. The centre will link research and extension activities with exchange of experiences, thus proactively contributing to the transformation of the agricultural system towards regenerative practices. In 2022, we conducted a cultivation trial with bio**char** as the first research mandate on the farm. This positive development meant that further upfront funding by the President was no longer necessary in 2022 (see section Financial Report).

We were rather cautious about developing the infrastructure for the centre in 2022. But now that we have received a grant from the Solidarity Fund of the Zurich General Building Cooperative (Soli- young people from Germany, Lebanon and Swit-

daritätsfonds der Allgemeinen Baugenossenschaft Zürich) at the end of 2022, we will resume construction in 2023 (see section "Outlook").

Organisational development, strategic and institutional goals

One of the main topics in organisational development in 2022 was the renaming of our organisation from OPC to UP Development, which was already envisaged in the 2021 annual report. Just so much in advance, it was a success and we are very satisfied. You can read more about this in the section "Report of the Executive Board".

Towards the end of 2022, we hired two more part-time staff members, David Trüb and Maurice Riedel. David is developing the eco-tourism component of the project for us on site in Busua, Ghana, and Maurice, who was still responsible for events on a voluntary basis in 2022, is now providing professional support to the Managing Director Benjamin Andres in order to manage the larger event programme in 2023 and the "Sustainability School Project" (see below). As expected, the appointment of Benjamin in August 2021 has so far been thoroughly worthwhile, we are growing sustainably on all fronts, a real pleasure! In addition to our staff and the volunteer work of the board and members, who are duly thanked here, we again involved a BNF trainee and other volunteers in our work in 2022.

Also in 2022, about 50 families in Ghana were able to generate an income through our projects, which directly supports about 500 people in coping with their daily lives. In 2022, five zerland, as well as three Ghanaians did an in- approached by a mostly young person at a train ternship with us, and a German student did data station for supporting a humanitarian organicollection for his bachelor thesis. You can read sation? All too often, unfortunately, this leads about the experiences of some of these peoto negative emotions, be it from the dismissive ple in the "Stories of people involved" section. passer-by or from the canvassers themselves. In 2022, we also wanted to win over many new small In 2022, we placed a special focus on education among them. We succeeded in this with authentic campaigns, which led to a more solid founda-

donors, but to create a lasting positive feeling and networking. In Ghana, as in Switzerland, we continued to develop the areas of education and social entrepreneurship. The expansion of our tion of our funding. You can read more about this network of partner organisations brings promin the section "Report of the Executive Board". ising prospects for the future. A huge success We also wanted to sustainably strengthen the is the funding of the new project on dynamic cohesion within the organisation with events for agroforestry with cocoa, which we submitted the members. With a barbecue in the summer and to the Solution-Oriented Research for Devela great party with presentation in the winter, we opment (SOR4D) programme of the SDC (Swiss also achieved this goal. Whenever we needed help, Agency for Development and Cooperation) and our members were always ready to lend a hand. the SNSF (Swiss National Science Foundation). At this point we would like to say a big thank you! Together with renowned partners such as ETH Zurich, the University of Ghana, the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) and HALBA, we are excited to embark on this larger project, which will run from 2023 to 2026. You can read more about this in the sections Project Work and Press Review. In addition, the President again gave a lecture on OPC at the Justus Liebig University in Giessen (online).

To solve global problems, we need a new generation of leaders trained in regenerative practices. Not only in Ghana, but also in Switzerland, we are contributing to this with the "Sustainability School Project". In workshops, we impart relevant knowledge and approaches to solutions. The students can also actively do something about the problems mentioned by organising fundraising runs or sales campaigns and donating the proceeds to our organisation.

In Switzerland, small-donor fundraising is often done on the street. Who has not been





Maurice Riedel Vice President UP Development

Sandra Heiniger, **Treasurer UP Development**

Dr Christian Andres, President UP Development



2022 was all about innovation.

Finding the right partners for a re-brand-All this motivates not only me, but our whole ing was a challenge; with the support of our team in Switzerland to encourage even more long-standing advisors, we finally found the people to do something good. Together we perfect team for it in Chantal Ehrensberger and are strong, together we can achieve great Diana Rossi. And we also found a suitable partthings and together we can change the funer for the new homepage in Ruben Brändli. ture of ourselves and our planet for the better. We are very pleased to welcome these people as part of our organisation and to move forward together professionally into the future.

As a young and dynamic organisation, we also want to break new ground in the area of fundraising. We have presented our organisation at various events, approached people at the climate fair at Zurich's main station, presented our products at vegan fairs and tattooed visitors at festivals. The latter has struck a chord with us and we have thus found a way in which it is not we who may invite people to donate, but people who actively approach us. In 2023, we will focus on this concept and be present at 10 festivals at least. Curious? In this film you can see how our concept works.

The centre of excellence in Busua is currently going from construction to operation. More and more life is coming in and we are conducting training with the local population. In the coming years, we will be very busy building up the cooperatives with around 800 farming families. Fortunately, we have trained and developed our team over the years so that we are ready for the increasing challenges.



Re-branding from OPC to UP Development, an unprecedented fundraising concept and many motivating changes in Ghana; the year

Benjamin Andres,

Managing Director UP Development



ORGANISATION PORTRAIT

UP Development stands for a change of direction in various areas. The aim is to move upwards rather than downwards. Or just: UP.

In Switzerland and Ghana, we are setting a new course in a direction that will produce regenerative leaders. In the future, these leaders will guide society with respect for Mother Nature. Through public relations at events and workshops in schools, we are sensitising the population in our latitudes to more sustainability. With our main implementation partner OPC (Obrobibini Peace Complex), we are pursuing the same goal in the Global South, currently in Ghana. By operating centres of excellence in the field of social entrepreneurship and ecological agriculture, we create spaces where an alternative way of life is cultivated in harmony with nature.

The former association OPC (Obrobibini Peace Complex) became the organisation UP Development in 2022. Strategic reasons led to this decision, and since the re-branding, the organisation has benefited from professionalisation in various ways. You can find all the information on **our new homepage**.

The organisation in Ghana will continue to be called OPC. Especially with regard to creating local ownership and the institutional and economic sustainability of the project, we are aiming for OPC to be an independent organisation in the medium term, no longer dependent on UP Development for the training and operation of the learning centres we are currently building.



- EDUCATION FOR A HEALTHY WORLD.
- · Berufsbildung
- Ökologische Landwirtschaft
- Nachhaltiger Tourismus

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UP DEVELOPMENT

Maurice Riedel has been supporting the UP Development fundraising team on a voluntary basis since December 2020. On two occasions, he has already spent several weeks in the projects in Ghana. As UP Development's Event Manager, he organises various events in Switzerland. He is an entrepreneur in the agricultural sector and his encounter with UP Development inspired him to focus his activities more on social and sustainable values. His professional skills include communication and coordination, project management, networking and languages. His hobby is American football, he plays for the Zurich Renegades.



Board of Directors (honorary)

Dr Christian Andres is the Founder and President of UP Development, as well as the honorary Executive Director of OPC in Ghana. He holds a PhD in tropical agroforestry. His research focuses on sustainable production systems for cocoa and oil palm to combat climate change. In addition to his research work for ETH Zurich and UP Development projects, he does consultancy work for other organisations who value his expertise for the implementation of their respective projects. In 2021, he completed his MBA in Social Entrepreneurship with special distinction (Roxbourg Gold Medal). His core competencies are tropical agroforestry, organic farming, communication and coordination, project management, networking and fundraising, as well as sports and spirituality/meditation.



Sandra Heiniger is the Treasurer of UP Development and mother of two children. She is a qualified accountant and completed her training in business administration in Switzerland. Her core competences are accounting and sports.

Management

Benjamin Andres, co-founder and former Vice President of UP Development, leads the organisation in Switzerland. Since his appointment in 2021, he has gradually professionalised the organisation through his operational leadership and broken new ground in fundraising. The annual project visits give him a deep connection to the projects and the people involved. His core competences are communication and coordination, networking, fundraising, teaching and sports.

Communication (voluntary)

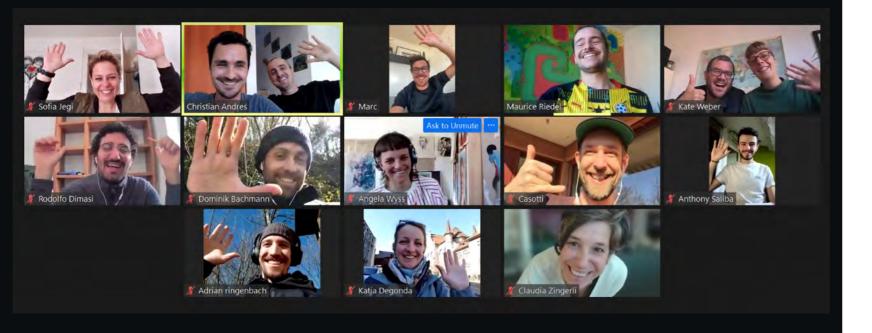
Angela Wyss is an active member of UP Development. Through her professional work as an independent fashion designer, she has a pronounced sense for aesthetics and design. As UP Development's communications officer, she heads the social media department, takes on various design tasks (including the layout of the annual report) and is responsible for the organisation's external image.











Membership base and patrons

The organisation's membership base has been steadily increased through personal contacts and numerous events. In 2022, we passed the magic mark of 100 members; a large and wellmixed network that strengthens us and constantly helps us to develop further. Some of them support the business activities on a voluntary basis. We were also able to significantly increase the number of patrons in 2022, they currently number around 350 people.

UP Development members at the 2022 General Assembly (online via Zoom)

OPC

Presentation of the main implementation partner OPC

Justice Cudjoe is HR and Farm Manager in Busua. He graduated from Agona Senior High School and trained as a Certified Ecovillage Designer (Gaia Education). In 2021, he completed his MBA in Social Entrepreneurship at OPC with special distinction (Roxbourg Gold Medal). Prior to joining OPC, he worked at Escape3Points Ecolodge and Trinity Yard School. Justice represents the Global Ecovillage Network Ghana in the Western Region. He is hardworking, results-oriented and enthusiastic. His hobbies are gardening, travelling and reading.



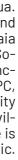
Dr Christian Andres, honorary CEO

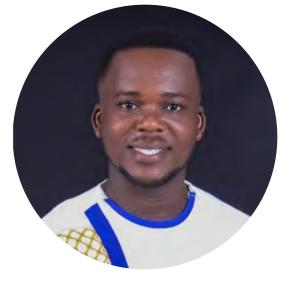
Israel Ashitey is the HR and Logistics Manager in Mankessim. He is a qualified mechanical engineer and works as a local project coordinator as well as a mechanic and driver. He is passionate about preserving people's cultures and traditions. Israel likes meeting new people, listening to good and informative music, hiking, cycling, sometimes cooking and learning from different cultures. His core skills are mechanics and project management.



Moses Awiagah is the Board Secretary and Head of Construction Projects in Busua. He graduated from the National Technical University (KNUST) in agricultural sciences and worked at the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG) with the President of UP Development as part of his PhD. In 2021, he completed his MBA in Social Entrepreneurship at OPC. His ability to serve others and his gift for understanding people from different backgrounds make him a great team player. His core competencies are agriculture and project management.

James Henry Dzade is a Farm Manager in Mankessim. He graduated from Sankore Senior High School and worked as a cocoa trader and teaching assistant for the community school before joining OPC. Since 2018, he has been involved in Dr Christian Andres' research as a field assistant, and since 2020, he has also been working as a lead farmer in OPC's projects. His hobbies are reading books, music and motivating people.





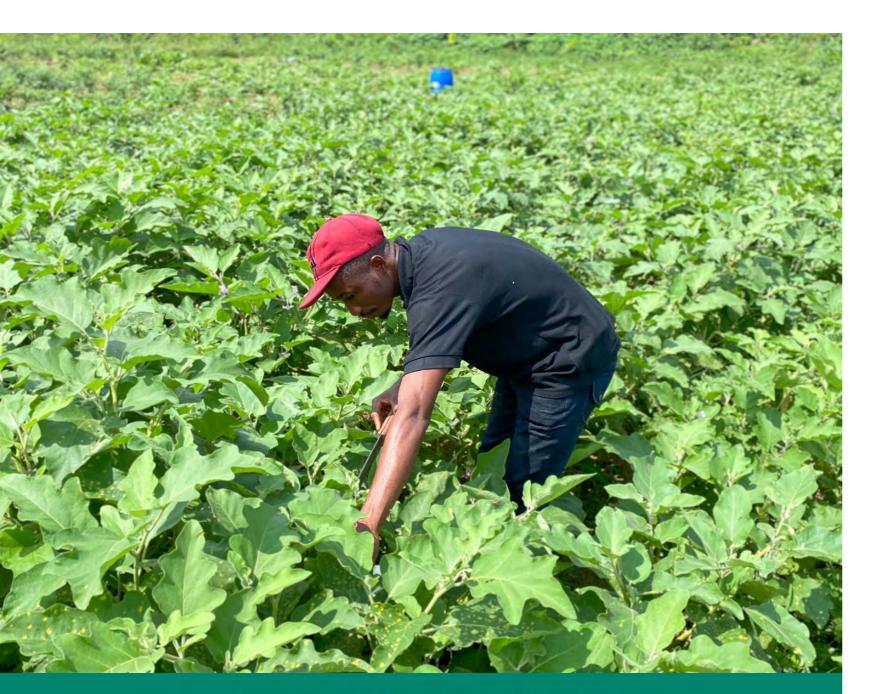






TEAM OPC

21



PROJECT WORK

Impact UP Development



Impact UP Development

This graphic shows the impact we are achieving with our main implementation partner OPC. As the construction phase was largely completed in 2022, the impact will increase proportionally even more in the future.

In Ghana, around 50 people are directly employed in our projects. Further jobs created indirectly by the trained and successful social entrepreneurs are not included here.

We have already planted over 1,000 trees on about 20 hectares. The farmers involved are trained in the competence centres and thus inspired to transform their monocultures into dynamic agroforestry systems and other forms of permaculture.

The reach on social media, as well as the number of private and institutional donors, is steadily increasing. Such steady and healthy growth is important for the sustainability and financial security of our organisation.



Training in social entrepreneurship in the field of ecology

First of all, what are social enterprises? Simply put, they are businesses that primarily create social benefit, and do not lead to the enrichment of a few who are already rich. On a large scale, this can mean that investors forego interest and dividends; on a small scale, it can mean that a self-employed person reinvests the profits of his or her business in such a way that the local community benefits more from this micro-enterprise, e.g. that more people find work, or that the nutrition or health of the population improves. We work in the latter area, that is, in supporting the development of local micro-enterprises. A very inspiring book on this topic is Muhammad Yunus' "Creating a World Without Poverty: Social Business and the Future of Capitalism".

Last year we reported that our strategic partner RISE (Roxbourg Institute of Social Entrepreneurship) has reserved \$400,000 for us to train regenerative leaders. Specifically, these are scholarships for 100 students who will be allowed to go through the \$4,000 training at Roxbourg, which culminates in the Roxbourg.MBA Degree, for free on our recommendation. The Roxbourg programme is a so-called "Accelerator", i.e., an acceleration programme in which the aim is to take existing social enterprises to the next level. To do this, the micro-entrepreneurs need a convincing business idea and a registered organisation with a website and proof of concept. Based on this, they then need to develop a solid growth strategy and drive their development by entering into collaborations. The 100-day pro-

gramme is conducted entirely online and can therefore be completed regardless of location.

In 2022, we have developed a project plan which foresees that in each of the two semesters per year in 2023 and 2024, 25 students will complete the so-called Social Business Accelerator (SBA) at OPC/Roxbourg, which would bring us to this number of 100 students by the end of 2024. Already in 2021 and 2022, four members of the OPC management successfully completed the SBA (two of them with an award (Roxbourg Gold Medal)) and thus gained valuable experience with this programme. As a result, we have developed a concept of operation which foresees that one member of the OPC management will remain in the Roxbourg programme. This person supervises the new students and passes on the developments to the rest of the OPC Management. This way we can help the students in the best possible way. Currently, this is Justice Cudjoe (see section "Presentation of the main implementation partner OPC"), who is one of the 2021 graduates with the Roxbourg Gold Medal. Justice has chosen to complete the 400-day Roxbourg MBA+DBA programme (DBA stands for Doctor of Business Administration), so he is on it for four semesters.

We have already gained valuable experience in the 2022 pilot phase, which is now helping us to further refine our operational concept. For example, we are planning an upstream step, the socalled Social Business Incubator (SBI), to bring micro-entrepreneurs up to the level for entry into the SBA. We are also working on a follow-up programme, which will include further advice and the search for start-up capital to drive the development of the respective social enterprises. Currently, we have around 20 students in our programme. We are convinced that with such a solid concept we can generate sustainable and mea- win for the participating farmers and their comsurable benefits for the micro-entrepreneurs. munities, win for our organisation, and win for the environment. In the medium term, the goal is to partner with 200 farming families per value chain, for a total of around 800 farming fam-Building cooperatives in organic agriilies, creating benefits for around 8,000 people.

culture

Our centres of excellence - both in Busua and Mankessim - are meant to be centres for regenerative living; that is, they are meant to demonstrate how to successfully run a circular economy social enterprise in the field of ecology, and to be able to provide all the necessary inputs including the knowledge needed if someone wants to do the same. Because our approach is strongly based on local value creation, the successful implementation of this project leads to a strengthening of the local community; shorter value chains are created, less transport is needed, pollution is correspondingly lower, a larger part of the value creation remains in the local communities, and thus one is less dependent on non-local markets and their sometimes massive and unpredictable price fluctuations. However, this is only possible if people stand together and help each other, and this is exactly where the idea of producer cooperatives comes in.

In 2022, we developed a project plan which envisages that between 2023 and 2025 we will establish producer cooperatives in four different value chains in which we already have expertise: sustainable palm oil and soap as well as oyster mushrooms in Busua, and staple foods (cassava/ garri, maize, plantains) and cash crops (pineapple, vegetables) in Mankessim. As with the social entrepreneurship training in ecology (see above), win-win-win scenarios are envisaged:



In 2022, we started a pilot project to set up a cooperative with female vegetable farmers. Initial discussions showed that we have to approach the project from the market side. There is no point in rounding up women, teaching them organic farming and then trying to persuade them to do it without a guarantee that their produce will be bought and that their extra effort can be compensated by a higher price on the market. So we have now taken the first steps to open our own shop in the nearby market town of Agona, where seasonal, fresh organic food will be available. In addition, we are working on a business concept that gives the farmers a purchase guarantee at an interesting price. With Justice, we again have an experienced team member who has already organised and managed similar things in Cape Coast. We are looking forward to the developments next year!



Dynamic agroforestry with cocoa

As a continuation of our President's post-doctoral project, he has written a follow-up project on dynamic agroforestry (DAF) with cocoa in 2022. DAF is a specific type of agroforestry. This systematic approach is characterised by high plant diversity, density and pruning intensity, as well as systematic stratification, i.e., one cultivates the cocoa under three other tree layers above it. We submitted the project to the Solution-Oriented Research for Development (SOR4D) programme of the SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) and the SNSF (Swiss National Science Foundation). It was selected for funding as one of seven projects (out of a total of 75 originally submitted). The project partners are ETH Zurich (lead), the University of Ghana (Accra), OPC, the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Yayra Glover Limited (YGL) and HALBA. So OPC is now for the first time an official project partner of a larger project with the best university in continental Europe, the two best universities in Ghana, as well as two very progressive private sector partners from the chocolate industry (organic producer cooperative YGL and organic chocolate manufacturer HALBA), a very great success! The project runs from 2023 to 2026 (three years) and can then be extended for another year.

West African farmers produce more than half of the world's cocoa beans in mostly unsustainable monocultures that are threatened by climate change. DAF can improve the environment and human well-being, but there are few effective programmes to implement DAF. Moreover, the high labour and knowledge intensity of DAF pose a major challenge to its implementation. Therefore, a thorough understand-

ing of the biophysical, socio-economic and cultural context is needed to support the development of effective programmes that make cocoa farming attractive again to farmers in general and to women and youth in particular.

Our overall objective is to contribute to a better understanding of the environmental and human well-being benefits of DAF in cocoa systems in Ghana and to support the increased adoption of DAF in practice. Specifically, we will (i) demonstrate the impacts of DAF on soil biodiversity, greenhouse gas emissions, nutrient cycling and human well-being, (ii) synthesise global knowledge on DAF and, building on this, (iii) develop a training programme on DAF, (iv) build a network of DAF and other agroforestry stakeholders, and finally (v) develop common pathways for a national DAF policy programme to implement DAF at scale.

Our work will provide new and important information for cocoa sustainability and deforestation reduction in Ghana. The results will make it possible to create a programme of more sustainable farming systems that can protect the population and the environment from various risks. Our results could help many farmers to successfully produce cocoa while restoring soil fertility and mitigating climate change, improving their livelihoods and contributing to resilient communities. They can also help reduce poverty and hunger, improve the quality of diets, and increase both medicinal crop production and relative spending on health care, which can improve rural health. A group of stakeholders representing the entire value chain process throughout the duration of the project.









STORIES OF PEOPLE INVOLVED

Justice Cudjoe, Farm Manager at OPC in Busua

For me, OPC is a revolutionary organisation. In recent years, much of our culture and heritage has been lost due to external influences such as globalisation. "Sankofa" is a word in our national Ghanaian language "Twi" and literally means "to go back and get" or "to bring back". There is a saying that it is not wrong to fetch what you have forgotten. For example, if you forgot your laptop at home when you go to work, you will surely go and get it because you cannot continue working without it. I see OPC as a starting point for Ghana's return (Sankofa) to its ancient and original, beautiful agricultural heritage, where simple farming tools and traditional agricultural practices lead to a comprehensive approach to Mother Earth, the people and a fair share of resources, while also taking into account the social and cultural dimensions. OPC is indeed able to help people realise their potential. I have experienced this first hand. After a decade of experience in practical farming, OPC gave me a new tool to understand, document and teach others: science. OPC's evidence-based approach makes it easy to communicate one's story across cultures and languages. It also helps to take a step towards the goal we want to achieve: Unity among people, regardless of where you



come from, what you look like, what you believe in or what experiences you have. I have also continued my education through the Permaculture Design Course and a global professional study, and have been able to learn from different people from all over the world, for which I am very grateful.

I am convinced that we will continue to increase the impact of OPC by sharing our experiences with and involving farming communities, students and professionals from a wide range of backgrounds. On to a better future for all of us and the planet!



David Trüb, Hospitality Manager at OPC in Busua

My last attempt to set up my own bar in Laos failed because of COVID. My next experiment to realise myself in the advertising industry as a copywriter and concept developer failed because of my non-existent passion for consumption. My current venture seems doomed to non-failure as it is the perfect fusion of non-consumption and non-COVID, we shall see... You see, UP Development has given me the opportunity at OPC in Busua, Ghana to set up the entire eco-tourism component of the project. This includes a For me, it confirms my feeling that authentic guesthouse, a restaurant with bar and a shop.

Due to the almost 100% local circumstances, i.e., 95% local staff, my biggest challenge at the moment is intercultural communication. My days are full of minor or major misunderstandings and ambiguous unambiguity. This may sound guite exhausting. It is. But it is also very interesting. Through my work and being a guest in this culture, I have precious opportunities to learn something new every day and to train my patience. After a few months on the ground, it also seems to me that my Ghanaian counterparts understand me better every day. This understanding across the borders of two cultures and the unity it can create is an important part of the work at OPC and a valuable opportunity for me to grow.

travel is all about learning about new cultures. I define work as a combination of moving forward, planning far-sightedly and finally doing it. Others are different, maybe not so farsighted in their planning and maybe define getting ahead differently, and that's beautiful and super interesting. Thanks for that and much more, OPC!

Alexander Pfyffer,

Intern (web design) at OPC in Busua

Going to Ghana to help with OPC was one of the best decisions l ever made. It was an opportunity for me to immerse myself in a completely different culture, meet people from a different background and work on a sustainability project. Even more interesting was that I was to work on a dynamic agroforestry project, something I had never heard of before.

As soon as I arrived in Ghana, I was welcomed with open arms by everyone I met. The people of Ghana are very hospitable and I will never forget their hospitality. What really impressed me was the entrepreneurial spirit of the people who wanted to make a difference even though they did not have many resources. They were determined to fight against conservative structures and stand up for their idea, which inspired me a lot.

One of the highlights of my journey was when I was able to teach Henry, an OPC staff member, how to develop websites. At the same time, I was able to learn a lot about dynamic agroforestry and organic cocoa farming. It was a great exchange of knowledge and I was happy that I could help someone a little bit.



In conclusion, I can say that my trip to Ghana was an unforgettable experience thanks to Christian, Henry and all the other people I met at OPC and in Ghana in general. It was a trip where I learned a lot about different cultures, sustainable agriculture but also about myself and for that I am very grateful.



Anthony Saliba,

Intern (soap production) at OPC in Busua

In my eyes, the main goal of science is to solve global problems like pollution, but unfortunately the green industry is developing slower than it should. As a young scientist, I want to be an active part of the solution. Like so many my age, I wonder if I am doing the right thing and if I am in the right place. You can't answer these questions without practical experience. I had to get out of my comfort zone of experts and university labs and l knew that I had to gain practical experience in a place where the environment plays a central role.

OPC was the place for me to discover and learn. My 6-week internship turned knowledge into skills. First, I worked on my adaptability to a new environment. Then I decided to contribute my expertise to develop a soap formula. And I was back to field one: research! I consulted the local scientific literature and combined it with the data I had collected and the knowledge I had gained at university to create a document that would enable anyone to understand and make soap. For this process, I went far outside my comfort zone and had to improvise the tools for my experiments from everyday utensils I found in OPC's ingenious kitchen, for example.

Long story short: this whole process has made me more self-reliant and much more aware of the challenges of everyday life. But this is only what I would write about on LinkedIn. OPC had something else for me. Six weeks in Busua opened my eyes to the possibilities of living in harmony with nature, with all the consequences that entails. I learned how external factors and circumstances shape every situation and how to deal with them in my personal and academic life. My stay at OPC was my first experience in Africa and if I had to describe it in one word: life-changing.

David Wilson,

Intern (agriculture) at OPC in Mankessim

With an estimated 12.5% of all Ghanaians (3.6 million people) not having access to enough food to lead an active, healthy life, food security is a big problem in Ghana. In my opinion, the main reason for this is that we undervalue agriculture, especially the research and development of new methods that are both productive and healthy for people and nature. At OPC, I want to actively contribute to this solution by producing healthy organic food that is affordable for all while regenerating our planet. I work on the 20-hectare farm in Mankessim, where we practice regenerative agriculture by combining traditional farming tools like machetes with locally adapted machinery.

I am a chemical engineer by training. Initially, it was difficult for me to find a place in Ghana where I could learn and practice agriculture. However, at OPC I had the opportunity to gain practical experience in growing organic vegetables, pineapple, maize and cassava. I also learnt how to process chillies into powder and do other value addition.

Through what I have learnt at OPC, I will definitely switch to organic farming on my own farm. This will help me increase my yields in the long run, instead of maximising profits in

the short run, as is done in conventional farming at the expense of the environment. Day by day I am becoming a better farmer and know better how to help my local farming community. This gives a lot of meaning to my life and I want to thank everyone who supports OPC because you give me this opportunity, thank you!



Andreas Schmidt,

BSc Student (mushroom cultivation) at OPC in Busua

At the end of a degree, there is often the search for a topic to write a paper on. I was lucky enough to have Christian give a guest lecture on agroforestry in my class. He explained his research and showed the work at OPC through many impressive pictures. In conversation, he finally suggested that I study the oyster mushroom cultivation at OPC and optimise it if possible. I was immediately enthusiastic about the idea of creating added value for people by working on a practical topic with my Bachelor's thesis. At OPC I learned how to cultivate mushrooms and tried to apply my theoretical knowledge from university. In close cooperation with the team, we carried out different experiments. Many things were new not only for me but also for the team, so everyone involved learned a lot.

Besides the work, I met many great people who inspired me in many different ways. The entire time in Ghana was full of intense experiences and has left a lasting impression on me. I developed professionally and personally and found a new enthusiasm in mushroom cultivation, which I continue to pursue at home in Germany. OPC makes you want to make meaningful changes in your life and gives you an introduction to the work that we as humanity should dedicate ourselves to if we want to preserve our planet and a healthy basis for life.

Marc Süsskind,

Active Member

After five years of teaching children of different cultures at the Federal Asylum Centre, I simply needed a break. I wanted to discover new worlds again and broaden my personal horizons. After a long search, a friend reminded me of the OPC project. After a few uncomplicated conversations with Christian, we had a plan.

Finally, in January 2022, the time had come. The caring nature of Moses and the OPC team helped me a lot to feel at home from the beginning. I made the most of every day; jogging on the beach at sunrise, then cycling to OPC where I supported the team where I could. In addition to practical work, I often helped in the office to create the training concept. Soon, abstract words like "sustainable" or "regenerative" became concrete visions, which are still an integral part of my life today.

Besides the work in the project, there were many other highlights that made my time in Ghana unforgettable. Football games on the beach, spontaneous weddings and concerts, church services in the middle of the night, donating blood during power cuts, preparing fufu, doing laundry for the first time without a washing ma-



chine, campfires with guitar and drums, Africa Cup games in the local pub with lots of people and even more mosquitoes, school visits in overcrowded classrooms, card tournaments at any time of the day and much more. Every day in Busua is unique and I still thrive on the wonderful encounters and memories of this magical place. M'edaase paaaaa!



Benjamin Oska,

Partner (Yayra Glover Ltd.)

I am passionate about using technology to improve sustainability in global value chains. As an open source software engineer, I believe in freely sharing knowledge and resources to empower others to create meaningful change. My focus on agribusiness brought me to Yayra Glover, Ghana's pioneer organic cocoa cooperative. I use my expertise to help the company produce high-quality organic cocoa in an environmentally friendly way.

I see my work at Yayra Glover as the beginning of a journey towards a better future for people and the planet. Gandhi said, "be the change you wish to see in the world", and I strive every day to do just that: to use my skills to be part of the solution and hopefully inspire some people around me to do the same. When I got in touch with OPC, I immediately felt that we were a great fit in terms of vision and mission to shape a better world. Our generation are the leaders of tomorrow and I am happy to count OPC among the family of organisations that will shape the beautiful face of tomorrow's planet. United we are strong!

Andreas Gattinger,

Partner (Professor of Organic Agriculture, University of Giessen)

It fills me with joy to have been able to accompany the OPC project since the conceptualisation phase, i.e., since 2016 and thus right from the beginning. When Christian told me one day about the first hectares of land in Ghana and drew his vision of OPC on the back of an envelope, I just thought to myself "let's see".

Since then, Christian and OPC have been an integral part of the Bachelor's module "Sustainable Agroecosystems" at the University of Giessen. This gives both the students and me an authentic insight into the work of OPC and the enormous dynamism that the project radiates. My reservations from back then have since fizzled out; in the meantime, three students from Giessen were also on site, were able to contribute in various areas, made new contacts and came back with many new ideas and large suitcases of life experience.



The developments make me confident that the project will continue to facilitate many encounters between different cultures at eye level, in line with the holistic vision. OPC is well on its way to becoming an international living lab for ecological and regenerative agricultural and food systems as well as social entrepreneurship for many young people worldwide. Keep it up!



Gian Reto and Nathalie à Porta,

donors and advisors

Many of us want to make a difference towards a better world. But which projects make sense and on what basis can we assess this in view of the great complexity of this question? We had already discussed these and similar questions in depth several years before the first meeting with Christian, and we had also examined and thought through a wide range of projects.

When Christian told us about his vision, it became clear that he had dealt intensively with the country and, on the other hand, as an agronomist, also with the core topic of the project, and that he had a lot of knowledge. It was a vision paired with a lot of experience, competence and what was clearly noticeable from the start, an honest motivation to turn this long-term vision into reality. It was clear from the beginning that his project was not a small one.



When the OPC project began with the purchase of a large area of land, we were nevertheless amazed at the determination and effectiveness with which Christian and the entire team, which has also grown steadily, implemented the vision step by step. At regular intervals, we were kept up to date on the progress with photo updates. In many ways, it is a showcase project and we are very much looking forward to travelling to Ghana with our children, so that we can do something about it ourselves.





Month	Activity
1	Ground-breaking ceremor
January	Start of cultivation trial wi
February	Completion of the shell of
Manah	Completion of school in Bu
March	Ground-breaking ceremor
	Construction of bridge for
April	Ground-breaking ceremor
	First harvest of pineapple
Мау	Submission of pre-propos gramme of SDC and SNSF
	Workshop on dynamic agr
	Second employment in Sw
	Start of event season in S
June	Visit of Managing Director
	Expansion of the solar pla
	First processing of our mu
	Visit of the District Chief o
	The new UP Development
July	First processing of our su
	Consultancy mandate for a male
August	Completion of workshop in
	Invitation of the SOR4D pr out of 75 submitted project
	Production of a film on dy
September	Workshop with all project programme (SDC/SNSF)
	Submission of the full pro
	Third employment in Switz
	Training of a Ghanaian inte
October	First workshops and teach
	Ground-breaking ceremor tainable palm oil and the s
Marrahan	Completion of cultivation
November	Completion of outdoor kit
	Fourth job in Switzerland (
December	Successful charity party in
	Start of roof work on even



ny for workshop in Busua
th biochar in Mankessim
the guesthouse in Busua
usua
ny sanitary complex in Busua
land drainage in Busua

ny outdoor kitchen in Busua

in Mankessim

sal for dynamic agroforestry project to the SOR4D pro-(75 projects submitted)

roforestry in Kumasi (completion Post-Doc President) witzerland (40%)

Switzerland – new fundraising concepts are tested

in Ghana

ants in Busua

ushrooms into vegan sausages in Busua

of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) in Busua

t homepage goes live

Istainable palm oil into soap in Busua

cooperative with 11,000 shea butter producers in Ta-

in Busua

rogramme (SDC/SNSF) to develop a full proposal (17 cts)

namic agroforestry (completion Post-Doc President)

partners to develop the full proposal for the SOR4D

posal for the SOR4D Programme (SDC/SNSF)

zerland (internship)

ern in dynamic agroforestry in Busua

hing activities at the school in Busua

ny for steam and hot water system for the mill for sussoap factory in Busua

trial with biochar in Mankessim

chen in Busua

(40%)

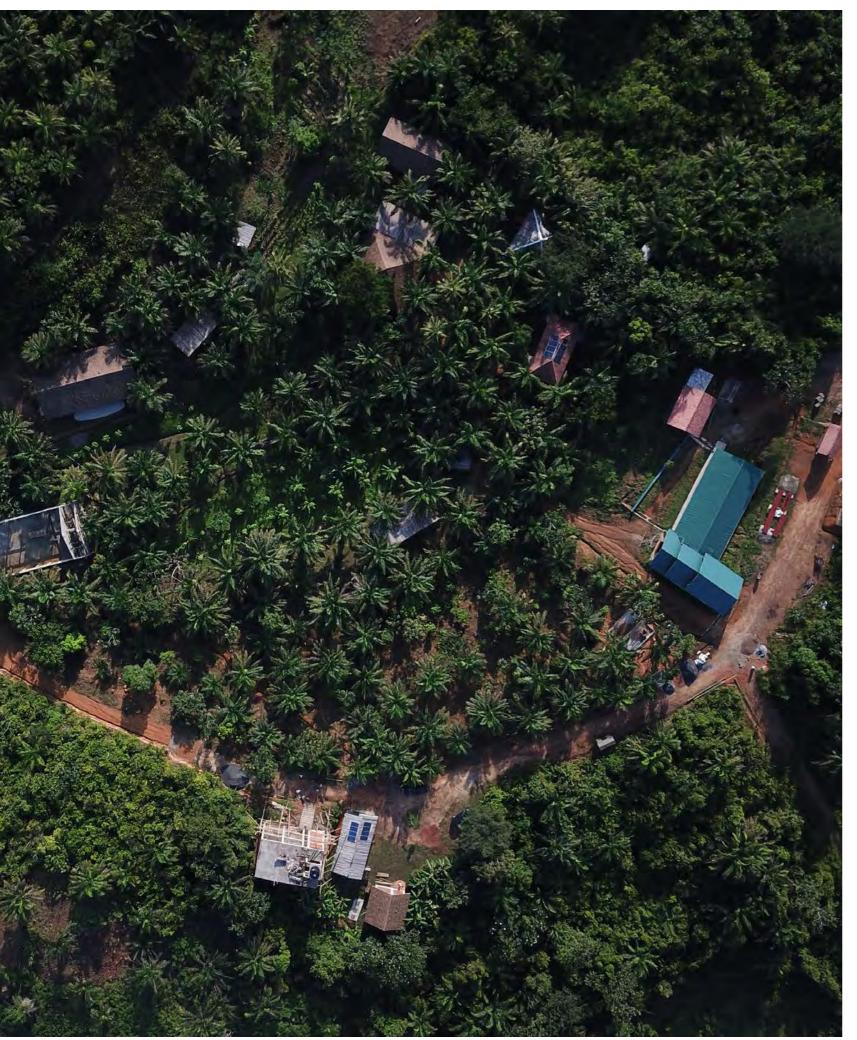
n Switzerland

nt centre in Busua (240 m²)









FINANCIAL REPORT

Annual statement OPC, Business year 2022

Balance sheet 31.12.2022

ASSETS

10	Current assets
100	Cash and cash equivalents
1000	Cash
1010	Postal account balances
1020	Bank deposits ABS

LIABILITIES

2100	Christian Andres private prepaid 2017-2021	-183,138
2970	Profit/loss carried forward	61,078
20	Current liabilities	-1,493
2020	Credit cards pass-through account	-1,493
28	Equity	7,122
2800	Capital account	7,122

Profit/Loss



97,963

97,963
97,963
400
96,764
798

-116,432

-18,469



Income statement 31.12.2022

Operating income from deliveries and ser-

vices		
30 Operating income		373,850
3000	Membership fees	16,717
3000/3001	Donations and collections	63,791
3003	Institutional donors	281,151
310 Goods revenue		
3100	Income from events	7,617
360 Other income		
3004	Other income	2,084
3701	Extraordinary income	2,490

-6,805 -1,017 -3,395 -1,086 -676 -517 -114

4 Cost of materials, merchandise, services

and energy	
40	Cost of materials and goods
4000	Software/hardware
4101	Stand rental events
4102	Material for events
4200	Purchase of merchandise
4201	Packaging material
4210	Transport costs

5 Personnel expenses

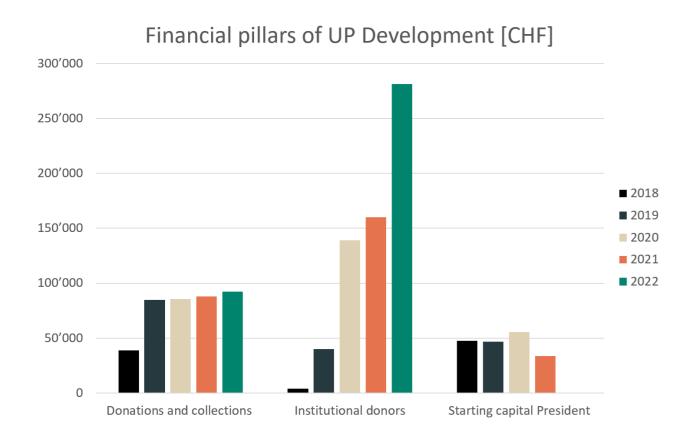
50
500
5000
5010
5020
5081
510
5070
5072
5075

6 Other operating expenses, depreciation and value adjustments and financial result

6		-304,119
65	Administrative expenses	-13,643
6500	Office supplies	-360
6502	Printed matter	-3,065
6503	Technical literature/subscrip- tions	-217
6510	Telephone/Internet	-2,403
6530	Postage for letters	-578
6540	Other administrative expenses	-6,871
6542	Promo/Advertising	-150
68 Financial expenses	Depreciation	-1,195
6360	Fees and charges	-145
6840	Bank charges Switzerland	-303
6841	Fees RaisNow	-162
6842	Bank/PC charges abroad	-130
6843	WISE	-455
69	Donations	-289,281
6920	Donations Ghana	-289,581
6930	Donations to foreign instituti- ons	300
Profit/Loss		-18,469

Labour costs	-81,396
Personnel expenses	-71,468
Third party labour costs	-12,117
Commission patronage	-2,963
Wages Switzerland	-55,209
Further training	-1,178
Insurance expenses for per-	
sonnel	-9,928
AHV / IV / EO	-4,517
BVG	-3,577
Miscellaneous social benefits	-1,834

FUNDRAISING AND FINANCIAL SITUATION



The two financial pillars of UP Development tions made by 76%. In addition, we received three are donations and collections (incl. membership fees, 92,421 CHF, 2021: 87,914 CHF) and funds from institutional donors (281,151 CHF, 2021: 160,000 CHF). In total, about 373,572 CHF (2021: 247,914 CHF) were available for OPC's development work in 2022. Funds from institutional donors were granted in response to specific project requests and came from sixteen foundations (CHF 1,000 once, CHF 3,000 twice, CHF 5,000 three times, CHF 8,500 once, CHF 10,000 four times, CHF 20,000 once, CHF 32,080 once, CHF 50,000 twice and CHF 55,000 once).

In 2022, in addition to maintaining existing contacts, we again focused our fundraising efforts on foundation fundraising, as well as on a new initiative with a presence at various events, and in particular the tattoo stand at the Reeds Festival. Fundraising in the foundation segment went very well in 2022. Not only were we able to convince all the foundations that had already made a contribution in 2021 to support our projects, but we were also able to bring eight more foundations on board and thus increase the contribu-

commitments for amounts spread over several years, which is very advantageous for us. These positive developments meant that further pre-financing by the President was no longer necessary in 2022. We mention some of the institutions that support us financially, with their consent, in the section Recognition, Thanks and Awards.



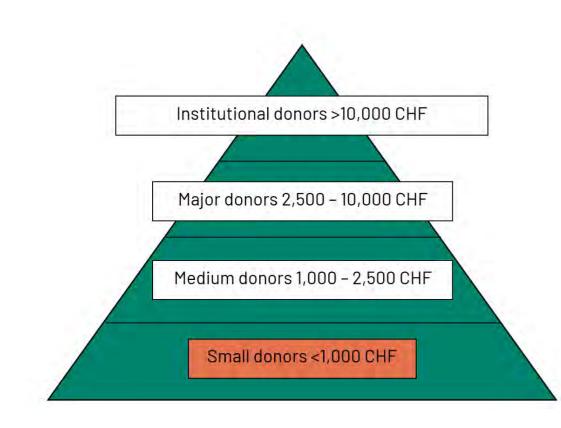


OUTLOOK

"Competence Centre for Sustainable Social Enterprises and Circular Economy" project in Busua, Ghana

The construction is largely completed, what is In 2023, we will further expand pineapple cultistill missing in some buildings is the furnishing; vation to reduce erosion and ensure the mediboth on the farm at the food centre (kitchen and um-term profitability of the project. In addition, restaurant) and in the commercial section in the we will implement the first steps for processing shop. In addition, the land will be connected to the pineapple. We also want to gradually implethe grid in the first half of 2023, after which we ment the planting of the agroforestry system with will also be able to put the commercial section various trees from 2023 onwards. Likewise, we and the guesthouse into operation. Unfortunatewill start local marketing in our own organic food ly, the amount of electricity we need for this can shop in Mankessim. In 2023, we will also resume no longer be run with medium-sized off-grid isconstruction. The plan is to complete the second land solar systems. We also still have to set up the two floors of the two farm buildings we have alschool, build the library and further develop and ready built. This will create three rooms, an ofapply our training concept. Last but not least, in fice and a conference room. We are also building the first half of 2023 we will also finish and set up a compost toilet, drilling another well and installour guesthouse so that we can open the eco-touring a solar system. For all this construction work, ism component of the project together with the we need a good access road; unfortunately, the restaurant and rooftop bar. Maybe 2023 will also road we built at the end of 2019 has already been be enough for the grand opening ceremony, but it quite damaged by erosion. So before the concould also be that it will not take place until 2024. struction continues, we will rework the road again and clear another small piece of land to build on.

"Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Agroforestry" project in Mankessim, Ghana



Organisational development, strategic and institutional goals

Good fundraising is structured like a pyramid, with many small donors at the base and a few big donors at the top. Such a structure brings secu-rity; if it is built on a solid foundation, it will not collapse if some of the big ones at the top break away. With the professionalisation and development of our main implementation partner OPC in 2022, many new doors are now open to us. We have achieved what is known as "institutional readiness" for targeted corporate fundraising and look forward to working with companies that want to make a difference in the field of sustainability and the environment in the future. Operational implementation and no construction projects are important funding criteria for many foundations. Now that we have reached this stage, new cooperation opportunities are also emerging in foundation fundraising. Last but not least, in 2023 we will massively increase the foundation of small donors with our mobile tattoo studio, ensuring sustainable growth of the organisation.





RECOGNITION, THANKS AND AWARDS

On behalf of the organisation, we would like to thank our patrons, members and institutional donors for their trust in UP Development and their reliable support of our work. The following institutions have already donated more than CHF 1,000 to UP Development (total 2018 - 2022):

- Solidaritätsfonds der Allgemeinen Bau senschaft Zürich
- Accordeos Stiftung
- Carl und Elise Elsener-Gut Stiftung -
- Däster-Schild Stiftung _
- Swiss Agency for Development and Co tion (SDC)
- Fondation DAVAC
- Fondation Philanthropique Famille Sar
- Margarethe und Rudolf Ġsell-Stiftung
- S. Eustachius Stiftung -

We would also like to thank other institutions that have supported UP Development financially:

- Global Ecovillage Network -
- Temperatio-Stiftung



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra

> Direktion für Entwicklung und Zusammenarbeit DEZA

m Margarethe und Rudolf Gsell Stiftung

Schwestern vom Heiligen Kreuz









ugenos-	_	Starr International Foundation
agenee	_	Stiftung Das Hungernde Kind
	-	Stiftung Mutter Bernarda Menzin-
		gen
	-	Świss Embassy in Ghana
oopera-	-	Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)
	-	The Usitawi Network Foundation
andoz	-	Verein Solisdarität
l	-	Verein Yayra Glover
	-	Walter und Louise M. Davidson-
		Stiftung

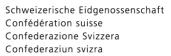
Carl und Elise Elsener-Gut Stiftung



















Walter und Louise M. Davidson-Stiftung





re
eur-



Last but not least, we would like to thank all active members of our organisation, volunteers as well as our student, interns and a BNF trainee:

Active members of our organisation 2022 (without Board)

- Dominik Bachmann -
- Rahel Boss -
- Dominique Brauchli Giuseppe Eggimann Lars Hegland -
- _
- _
- Sarah Hoffmann
 Ramona Michel
 Tobias Schicker

- Katherine Schmid -

Volunteers

- Randall Barriga Flurin Müller -
- -
- Gian Reto à Porta -
- -David Streuli
- -Diego Sanchez

Interns

- Lisa Langer
- -
- -
- -
- -
- -
- Lisa Langer Hans Mulders Alexander Pfyffer Amui Nii Quaye Anthony Saliba David Wilson Elorm Ayesu-Appiah -

- **Robin Schwitter** -
- Noah Silvani -
- Nicolas Stöcklin -

- Marc Süsskind
 Benjamin Trüb
 Katharina Weber
 Angela Wyss
 Claudia Zingerli

Student

- Andreas Schmidt

Consultant (BNF Hospitant)

- Oliver Pulfer

PRESS REVIEW

SOR4D programme: 7 transdisciplinary projects selected

27 January 2023

https://www.sor4d.ch/news/sor4d-programme-7-transdisciplinary-projects-selected/

The Solution-Oriented Research for Development (SOR4D) programme is a joint funding instrument of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). It promotes new ways and a different dynamic of transdisciplinary research for development among researchers and development actors. SOR4D projects are thematically open, but must contribute directly to the Sustainable Development Goals.

In a first meeting in July 2022, the SOR4D review panel invited 17 of the 75 pre-proposals submitted to submit a full proposal. In a second meeting in November 2022, the SOR4D review panel recommended 7 projects for funding from the 17 full proposals submitted. The SNSF Research Council and its Executive Board approved this selection. The budget of the 7 selected projects totals CHF 6.4 million.

The selected projects cover a broad spectrum of disciplines ranging from agricultural engineering, applied psychology, environmental sciences, human ecology, public health to social geography.

Click here for the list of selected projects.

Contact: info@up-development.org





DONATION INFORMATION

Your donation arrives!

We thank you very much for the trust you have Donate for special causes placed in UP Development with your donation! If certain topics are particularly close to Without your generosity, we would not be able to help the people in Ghana so substantially. It your heart, we have grouped sub-projects that belong to one topic in terms of their is all the more important to us that the money orientation and objectives under one keyentrusted to us is used sparingly, appropriately word each. If you would like to support the and effectively. A well-known logo in Switzerwork on such a topic, please indicate one land, which increases the confidence of donors in NGOs, is the seal of approval of the Zewo of the following keywords in your transfer: Foundation. Although we are still among the "Employment" smallest of the small in the categories of chari-"Education" table organisations of the Zewo Foundation, de-"Renewable Energy" spite the great growth of the last few years, the "Children and Youth" Board has decided to now take concrete steps "Herbal Medicine" so that we will receive a seal of approval from "Sustainable Agriculture" the Zewo Foundation after the annual financial "Sustainable Construction" statement 2023 (i.e., in early 2024). Especial-"Water" ly in the course of professionalising our organisation, the effort and costs involved are now We guarantee that your donation will then benworthwhile. Having grown as a family associaefit sub-projects with precisely this theme. tion, we are now at the point as a professional organisation where we will no longer be able to fully guarantee the exceptional proximity to almost all of our donors that we have enjoyed up **Donations without earmarking** to now. Thus, the acquisition of the Zewo seal of approval is a strong argument for a continued solid basis of trust among our supporters.

The majority of our donations are without specific earmarking. These donations enable us to provide aid wherever it is needed. This is about the health of future generations by improving their environment: clean water, good nutrition and education. If you would like to support the work of UP Development in general, please indicate the keyword "general" on your bank transfer, or simply leave the message line blank.

Supporting membership

If you want to support the work of UP Development in the long term and keep the administrative costs of your donation low, become a passive member! As a passive member you support UP Develop-ment with a fixed monthly or annual donation, the amount of which you determine yourself. By doing so, you give us reliability with which we can plan. UP Development IBAN: CH57 0900 BIC/SWIFT code: PostFinance Account no. 15-00

More information at:

https://up-development.org/en/membership/

Central donation account

IBAN: CH57 0900 0000 1500 1815 6 BIC/SWIFT code: POFICHBEXXX Account no. 15-001815-6

Online donation

You can of course also donate online:

https://up-development.org/en/donate/

Contact

If you have any questions about donations, please do not hesitate to contact us:

info@up-development.org

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PostFinance IBAN: CH57 0900 0000 1500 1815 6 BIC/SWIFT code: POFICHBEXXX



Imprint

Publisher

UP Development

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Concept

Benjamin Andres, Dr Christian Andres

Design/Layout

Angela Wyss, Honschi, Salzburg

Print

dieumweltdruckerei.de

Paper

Recycling-Premiumweiss





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