

LOOKING BACK. LOOKING FORWARD.

Lake Constance Foundation

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



2025



Our Vision

By 2050, our global ecological footprint will have been reduced to such an extent that the planetary boundaries for climate, biodiversity and water will not be exceeded.

Lifestyles and the economy are successfully aligned with the principle of sustainability and form the stable foundation of a socio-ecological society.

Our Mission

The Lake Constance Foundation is a competent and constructive partner for the protection the environment, climate and biodiversity – regionally, nationally and internationally.

With our projects, we help to ensure that the socially agreed environmental and climate targets are achieved earlier than planned. Our projects also promote social awareness of sustainable lifestyles and sustainable business practices. To this end, we think and work creatively, innovatively and boldly. We strive maximum feasibility in our project timeframes. Our projects are characterized by partnership, independence and scalability. We are open with our results and findings and actively feed them into expert discussions and political decision-making processes.

Executive Committee of the Lake Constance Foundation

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Pro Natura Schweiz

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Manfred Melchhammer
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FOREWORD

Dear readers,

After taking over the duties of Hildegard Breiner, Chairwoman of the Vorarlberg Nature Conservation Association, on the Board of the Lake Constance Foundation this year, I was immediately impressed by the enormous development that the organization had undergone since 1994: from an institution conceived for the four-country Lake Constance region to an internationally recognized specialist in the field of environmental and nature conservation with 20 paid employees.

If you see my predecessor Hildegard as a kind of mother of the Lake Constance Foundation (she accompanied the organization for 29 years, see page 6), then you can confidently put the words in her mouth: „Girl, you’ve grown up!“

The foundation successfully ensures its financing – primarily through public funding – and is thus able to maintain its independence from private donors. The professionalization of environmental protection exemplified by the foundation is the order of the day, as volunteer-run associations are unfortunately only of limited use as a counterweight to globally active commercial enterprises.

The willingness of many companies, from agriculture to international corporations, to accept the Lake Constance Foundation’s offer of cooperation for significantly more sustainability, or even better: to specifically seek out this offer, is particularly pleasing! This is not a matter of course, as it does of course mean additional costs and effort for our project partners – at least at first glance. In the long term, they, like all of us, are dependent on climate and biodiversity protection.

Our special thanks therefore go to our stakeholders who, as role models, dedicate part of their time and energy to protecting our wonderful planet!

Manfred Melchhammer



15.000

GUNDERMANN PLANTS have been planted in two orchards on Lake Constance. The aim: to deter voles. Read more on page 12.

135

LAKE PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS work together in „Living Lakes“. How the Lake Constance Foundation is committed to biodiversity and climate protection in lakes and wetlands in the international network and beyond from page 22.

250

PARTICIPANTS from local government and gardening and landscaping came together online at the invitation of the „Insect-promoting regions“ project. Why? And who else is addressed by the project from page 10.

124

KILOMETER Lindau student Leon Paasch cycled around the Obersee despite sleet showers and headwinds to awareness of species extinction and collect donations for the Flower Kids project. More about the project on page 26.

5

Up to a **ROOF INCLINE OF 5 DEGREES** green roofs and PV systems can be combined well. Why the combination makes sense and how the Lake Constance Foundation promotes successful implementation on page 31.

6

The Liebenau Foundation has redesigned **PILOT SITES** to adapt to climate change with „more“ biodiversity. What had to be taken into account and why the foundation can act as a role model for public and private property management from page 40.

4

The new EU Urban Wastewater Directive for the introduction of a 4th **PURIFICATION STAGE IN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS** by 2045. Up to now, activated carbon of fossil origin has mostly been used for the required removal of micropollutants. The alternative developed by the Lake Constance Foundation and its partners can be found from page 34.

200

COMPANIES have already used a biodiversity check to assess their dependence on and influence on biodiversity. More on the motivation and procedure using the example of Schwartauer Werke from page 38.

300

FARMERS have taken part in training courses on how they can reduce their farm's CO₂ emissions. Find out more about what the Lake Constance Foundation does for livestock farmers in terms of climate protection on page 14.

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**ENVIRONMENT WEEK:
GUEST OF THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT**

Renowned research institutes, organizations and associations presented innovations and solutions for a sustainable future at the Week of the Environment in Berlin on 4 and 5 June. Among the almost 200 selected exhibitors at the official residence of the Federal President was the Lake Constance Foundation, which focused on the **preservation and promotion of biodiversity**.



**STRATEGY DIALOG: BODENSEE
FOUNDATION MAKES DEMANDS**

The state government has signed a „**Social contract for the future of agriculture and biodiversity in Baden-Württemberg**“ with around 50 stakeholders from agriculture, nature conservation, trade, processing, production, society, science, churches and politics. The Lake Constance Foundation is one of the co-signatories (pictured right: Managing Director Patrick Trötschler). It was appointed to the working group „**Making biodiversity-promoting production visible from the field to packaging**“ and contributed its experience and suggestions.

**CHANGE IN THE PRESIDENCY
OF THE BODENSEE FOUNDATION**

The Lake Constance Foundation was founded 30 years ago by six environmental protection organizations from the countries bordering Lake Constance. For 29 years, since 1995, **Hildegard Breiner** accompanied and shaped the organization as a representative of the Austrian Nature Conservation Association on the board. Now the 88-year-old from Vorarlberg has handed over the baton to public prosecutor Manfred Melchhammer (for a portrait, see the foreword on page 3). Jörg Dürr-Pucher (right), President of the Lake Constance Foundation, thanked Hildegard Breiner for her dedicated work.



**MILESTONE IN THE PROMOTION OF
BIODIVERSITY**

The team from the „**Business & Biodiversity**“ field of action has shown perseverance in its commitment to the mainstreaming of nature-oriented corporate spaces. It celebrated a major success in June: at the National Annual Conference for Biodiversity in Business, the **DGNB Gold Certificate for biodiversity-promoting outdoor spaces** was awarded for the first time. The background: The German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB) developed the criteria for the award in close cooperation with the Lake Constance Foundation. More on page 42.



**VALUABLE INPUT FOR CROSS-BORDER
LAKE PROTECTION**

Lake Prespa on the Balkan Peninsula has some parallels with Lake Constance: like Lake Constance decades ago, it is not in good condition. It is also an international body of water with the neighboring countries of Albania, North Macedonia and Greece. Thanks to political détente, it seems possible to expand cooperation for the benefit of the lake. How this can be organized and with whom were questions put to Volker Kromrey at a **conference on the protection of Lake Prespa**. The managing director of the Lake Constance Foundation and head of the nature and water protection field of action was invited as a representative of the Lake Constance region. More on page 23.



**TRADITION PROVES ITSELF ANEW:
ENERGY CONFERENCE ON MAINAU**

Even though the event was held for the 23rd time in September, its topic is as relevant as it was at its premiere: „**Energy systems in transition – opportunities for the region**“ was also a magnet for visitors in 2024. Speakers from business, science and administration presented examples of renewable energies beyond wind and solar power as well as municipal climate protection and heat transition strategies. In 2025, solarcomplex AG, Forst BW, Mainau Island and the Lake Constance Foundation will once again host the conference on September 25 and 26. The presentations from previous events are available on the website: www.bioenergie-region-bodensee.de

Agriculture & the Food Sector

Together with partners from agriculture, the food sector and nature conservation, we launch initiatives and projects. Complete sustainable food systems are our goal.



New and clever thinking: The EEG principle for sustainable food systems

It has been scientifically proven that we need much more biodiversity in our landscapes. Unfortunately responsibility for this is often passed around. Consumers demand: „We don't want industrial agriculture and no pesticides. We want biodiversity and animal welfare! But please keep it cheap.“ The agricultural sector is fighting back: „With current producer prices, more environmental services are no longer possible! We have to feed the world.“ Nature conservation demands of the entire industry: „Finally become sustainable and make this visible to customers!“ The industry rejects this: „People want cheap food. That will never change. We are not responsible for that.“ And politicians are putting a lot of the blame on a pan-European solution. At least everyone agrees in every discussion that the most important thing is that children need to be taught better about sustainability. As I said, we are happy to pass on our responsibility...

We know that agriculture and the food industry currently offer too little sustainability. We know the directions of the paths for transforming our food systems. But we are not getting anywhere. Professor Dauber from the Thünen Institute has aptly characterized this as „lock-in“. The persistent narratives are food security, it has to be cheap, relocation effects and efficiency – and unfortunately they currently seem stronger than the forces of transformation.

Technology, education, advice and communication are important drivers of transformation. But that's not enough. We need money! The preservation of our livelihoods requires long-term investment. There is now a proposed solution for precisely this. FiBL (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture), Öko-Institut, Bioland and ifab (Institute for Agroecology and Biodiversity) have cleverly, meticulously and pragmatically transferred the concept of the Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG) to agriculture. According to this, it is possible and feasible to raise ~3.7 billion euros annually with a financial levy on all foodstuffs and thus to finance and support large-scale biodiversity-promoting measures in agriculture. Annual additional costs of ~45 euros per person when buying food are reasonable and can be distributed in a socially just way. For me, this proposed solution is a viable transformation path for everyone and a real glimmer of hope. You can find more information here: www.bodensee-stiftung.org/oelg

Biodiversity-promoting agriculture: a win-win situation for everyone

The Lake Constance Foundation supports and motivates land users to preserve and promote biodiversity.



It makes agriculture future-proof and resilient: biodiversity ensures ecosystem services such as filtering and storing water, pollination, maintaining soil fertility and natural pest control. Despite the obvious benefits and necessity, biodiversity is under considerable pressure. After the World Biodiversity Council IPBES has been drawing attention to the dramatic development worldwide for years, the publication of the species protection fact check in 2024 drew attention to the specific development in Germany: one third of species are endangered, and around three percent are already extinct.

The intensification of agriculture – including the cultivation a small number of high-yield crops and the excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides – has negative effects in almost all habitats, not just in agricultural areas and open land. It therefore offers the greatest leverage for biodiversity conservation approaches.

The focus: insects

The loss of species among insects is dramatic. Yet their importance for agriculture should not be underestimated. There are many players in protecting and promoting insects: in addition to agriculture, local authorities, companies and the food trade (see page 16) are also involved.

The EU LIFE project „Insect-Friendly Regions“ (IFR) is testing in six regions in Germany (Allgäu, Bliesgau, Lake Constance, Hohenlohe, Northern Upper Rhine, Wendland) and in the Vinschgau Valley in South Tyrol how more measures for the benefit of insects can be introduced into the area. The

In addition to the limited supply of pollen and nectar from vegetable blossoms, flowering strips and verges provide insects with food, shelter and overwintering opportunities – as here on the Moosfeld farm in Bohlingen near Singen am Hohentwiel.

project partners Bodensee-Stiftung (project management), Bäuerliche Erzeugergemeinschaft Schwäbisch Hall, Global Nature Fund, Netzwerk Blühende Landschaft and Nestle Germany are not focusing on individual measures, but on regional alliances in order to achieve a greater impact through the landscape approach than would be possible through individual farm considerations.

Measures take effect

Over the past four years, around 60 agricultural demonstration farms (arable, vegetable, fruit and wine growing) have already received individual advice on possible measures and trustworthy support. The Lake

Creating insect-promoting regions – how to succeed!

The project team is developing a guideline for the establishment of insect-promoting regions, which incorporates the experience gained in the IFR project. It aims to motivate other stakeholders to also set up insect-promoting regions and provides helpful tips. Many materials are available to download from the project website and the guide will follow as soon as possible. insect-responsible.org



Download



Constance Foundation is responsible for the Lake Constance and Northern Upper Rhine regions. In 2024, the work of Christine Kewes, Bianca Meßmer, Dr. Patrick Pyttel, Annekathrin Vogel and Saskia Wolf again included farm visits, constructive discussions with farmers, and the development, implementation and evaluation of measures. The measures are varied and were agreed individually with the farmers, such as perennial flowering areas on fallow fields, flowering tramlines in orchards, stone and deadwood piles as well as bird and wild bee nesting aids in vineyards, beneficial insect strips in potato fields and Benjes hedges in vegetable fields.

The demonstration farms are highly motivated. Dairy farmer Jonas Schlatter from Buchhaldehof near Singen am Hohentwiel, for example, has already implemented many measures on his farm. With the project, he has tried out even more, such as undersowing maize. „The Lake Constance Foundation is a good companion,“ he says about the nature of the cooperation in the project. In the opinion of the conventional farmer, many more farmers should increase their commitment to insects and nature in general. „We need more initiative!“ he says.

Offers for building yards and forestry

The project partners also work with local authorities, building yards and green space authorities. An online training course showed around 250 participants „Ways to near-natural lush greenery – species-rich meadows: Creation, enhancement, maintenance and cost savings“. Forestry was and is also addressed: Dr. Patrick Pyttel has already advised a quarter of the forestry offices in Baden-Württemberg.

An exemplary result of a cooperation: Ecoland – Verband für Ökologische und Klimaresiliente Land- und Ernährungswirtschaft e. V., has introduced biodiversity guidelines in 2024 and developed a tool to measure the biodiversity measures of its member farms. This was developed in cooperation with IFR Hohenlohe.

Competition for insect detectives

Workshops and activities serve to sensitize interested people as citizen scientists to the importance and fascination of insects. With the help of the iNaturalist app, they can record and identify the animals in the IFR regions.



The Grenzhof farm near Heidelberg has also implemented an agroforestry plantation as part of the IFR project. The trees significantly enrich the ecological infrastructure in the largely cleared landscape. In the picture on the right, Dr. Patrick Pyttel from the Lake Constance Foundation.

At demonstration farms, in schools and local groups of volunteers, Christine Kewes and speakers imparted knowledge about insects and tips and tricks for finding them. In the „Summer Holiday Challenge“, insect detectives were invited to record as many species as possible within two weeks using iNaturalist. Around 450 species were uploaded to the app from the Lake Constance and Northern Upper Rhine IFRs.

„The Lake Constance Foundation is a good companion.“
Farmer Jonas Schlatter on his commitment to more insect protection.

International interest in project findings

Interim results are already being communicated during the project. For example, the online workshop „More than just Flower Strips“ reached politicians, employees of EU institutions and NGOs from all over Europe. In addition to biodiversity-requiring measures in typical branches of production, the difficulties of reaching a landscape

approach with various stakeholders were discussed. During the workshop, contacts were established with the EU Commission, a Belgian NGO and another LIFE project. The IFR project also presented itself to an international audience in a six-page report in a journal with other EU projects.

The Lake Constance Foundation was able to present its activities for the promotion of biodiversity to an interested (specialist) audience at the Week of the Environment. It presented its projects as one of almost 200 selected exhibitors at the official residence of the Federal President (see page 6). >>



Fewer voles, fewer herbicides – more insects

In the PRO-PLANET biodiversity project, the Lake Constance Foundation is testing whether the „common ground elder“ can prevent voles from nibbling on the roots of fruit trees. If the trial is successful, the plant could help to reduce the use of herbicides and rodenticides (rat poison) and increase biodiversity. The effect of ground elder is being tested on two orchards in the Lake Constance region. To this end, 7,000 and 8,000 ground ivy seedlings were planted on the tree strips of an organic farm in Nonnenhorn and a plantation belonging to the Competence Center for Fruit Growing in Bavendorf. The pilot project is initially scheduled to run for two years.

The rodents feed on the roots or the base of the trunk of fruit trees, which can lead to a loss of yield or even the death of the tree. The „common ground ivy“ serves as food for many insects, but is poisonous to various farm animals such as horses and rodents due to secondary plant substances.

Fruit growers receive advice and materials

The PRO-PLANET biodiversity project was initiated in 2010 by the Lake Constance Foundation, Obst vom Bodensee, the REWE Group and the Friedrichshafen-Tettngang Beekeepers' Association to promote biodiversity, in particular the protection and promotion of insects.

The participating fruit growers planted 59.5 ha of flowering areas in 2022, 45.9 ha of which were annual mixtures and 13.6 hectares perennial mixtures. They planted 435 trees, shrubs and hedges and installed nesting aids for wild bees and birds.

In addition to advice the participating fruit growers, most recently 118 farms in the Lake Constance region, are provided with free seed for flowering tramlines or flower strips, nesting boxes for wild bees and birds, for example. The most recent



Teamwork: The helpers of the ground elder planting campaign at the Competence Center for Fruit Growing in Bavendorf.

wild bee monitoring in the PRO-PLANET sites showed a significant increase in both wild bee species and individuals. In 2021, 112 wild bee species were identified in the cultivation areas and support measures.

Cross-border soil working groups

Soil is the most important asset in agriculture. Many farming methods focus on quick, short-term success, while regenerative methods aim for long-term, stable soil fertility and health and therefore sustainable yields. The Lake Constance Foundation and Regenerate Forum would like to explore and exploit this potential with farmers. In soil working groups, they offer a platform for cross-border exchange in the Lake Constance region. „The participants experience a dynamic collaboration, as they each bring their own but enriching perspectives with different economic orientation, age, gender and experience,“ announces Sabine Sommer. The meetings are professionally moderated, but the content is shaped by the participants.

www.bodensee-stiftung.org/boden-ags

Educational material for more biodiversity in orchards

In the project „Model orchards to promote biodiversity“, measures were implemented and evaluated in six model orchards in Baden-Württemberg. Based on the results, training and information materials were developed for agricultural fruit-growing colleges. The material includes methodological and didactic advice as well as tips on literature and work assignments. It is supplemented by an instructional video, which was filmed on farmer Thomas Romer's model orchard in Constance-Litzelstetten. The material is available for use free of charge: obstbau-biodiv.de/bildung



Material

INTERVIEW

„It's worth looking for solutions.“

Sabine Sommer has been working for the Lake Constance Foundation since 2017. She contributes her knowledge of climate change, climate protection and biodiversity to regional, national and European projects for sustainable agriculture. She has yet to meet a fairy, but she knows what she would like her to do:

You are on the road a lot and with a wide range of topics and work with different farms, for example with fruit producers in the promotion of biodiversity and with livestock farmers in climate protection.

What is particularly challenging about this?

The range of farms is very broad. And therefore not only the farming methods, but also the different individual challenges. The aim is to motivate and inspire farms to do more for climate protection, biodiversity and climate change adaptation. Another challenge is to reconcile the objectives with economic efficiency and restrictive administrative regulations.

What motivates you?

It is great to see what some companies are already doing achieve these goals. It shows that it is possible to make your business more sustainable and also benefit economically and socially. Not everyone has a favorable starting position. But it is worth looking for solutions.

You are an agricultural engineer and worked for many years as a certifier at an organic inspection body, where you were the contact person for farms. To what extent does your professional experience help you to communicate farmers?

In my previous work, I had already dealt with a wide variety of personalities and business situations. Here, too, I had to find ways to comply with the requirements of the EC Organic Farming Regulation and find solutions with the farms. Then, as now, it is important to maintain a good exchange with all (project) participants.



Sabine Sommer lends a hand when necessary – here she is planting ground ivy (more on the project on page 12).

If a fairy were to grant you three wishes tomorrow: What would you wish for agriculture?

Above all, I would like to see:

- the efforts of farms for more climate protection, biodiversity and adaptation can be put to good use.
- the currently recommended sustainable measures are implemented across the board as quickly as possible so that they can be integrated across companies, i.e. at regional level.
- sustainable management strengthens biodiversity in all its facets and thus also the basis of agriculture, so that agriculture can continue to produce healthy and diverse food.



Great potential: climate protection in agriculture

The Lake Constance Foundation supports farmers in balancing and recommending measures for greater sustainability, including in animal husbandry.

Agriculture in Germany contributes significantly to the emission of climate-damaging gases. The Lake Constance Foundation has been supporting farmers for many years with energy and greenhouse gas balancing as well as advice on emission-reducing measures. In cooperation with dairies and consultants, numerous farms have been able to the AgriClimateChangeTool (ACCT) to calculate their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and take appropriate countermeasures.

The collaboration with the Bavarian dairy Bechtel is exemplary. In 2024 employees of the Lake Constance Foundation trained around 300 suppliers on topics such as optimizing dairy cattle feeding with regard to climate protection, high lifetime performance and animal health in dairy cows or the importance and production of high-quality grassland feed. A newly developed ACCT quick check was tested with almost 50 pilot farms in comparison to full surveys.

Individual advice for companies

The experience gained in dairy farming is now also being applied to pig farming. The EIP project „WertSchwein“ is identifying and evaluating sustainability services in regional pig farming that have not yet been taken into account and developing proposals for an appropriate remuneration and contract system. Sabine Sommer and Carolina Wackerhagen provided individual advice to 19 companies that supply slaughterhouses in Baden-Württemberg. They first calculated their carbon footprint using the ACCT, which is adapted to pig farming, and then assessed their biodiversity performance using the biodiversity point system newly developed by the Lake Constance Foundation (see page 17). Based on the respective results, they measures to the farms, such as avoiding overseas soy or using (their own) renewable energy. At the end of the year, a catalog of measures including suitable pricing models published:

www.eip-wertschwein.de

Climate quick check „pig“

Based on the methodology of the climate quick check cattle farming and the results of the WertSchwein project, the Lake Constance Foundation developed a climate quick check for pig farms in the EIP project „SüdSchwein4Klima“. It will be integrated into the Qualifood information platform® as the first part of a future „sustainability library“, so that pig can

see with manageable effort in which areas there is potential for improvement and which reduction measures can be implemented.

Climate-friendly agriculture pilot project

Since 2012, 24 farmers in the Flaachtal valley in Zurich have joined forces in the AgroCO₂ncept association to implement climate-friendly and resource-efficient agriculture on their farms. The Lake Constance Foundation provided climate protection advice.

A GHG balance sheet was followed by the calculation of the GHG reduction through the implemented measures, after which sensitivity analyses were carried out. The 2024 project evaluation showed that all companies rated the comparison and exchange with each other as very valuable



The AgriClimateChangeTool ACCT

is an Excel-based tool for calculating the energy, nitrogen and greenhouse gas balance of farms. With the help of the analysis results, the project team and the farm jointly plan which climate protection measures are feasible – e.g. saving synthetic fertilizers, improving the daily performance of ruminants or reducing the consumption of fossil fuels. Central to this are measures for soil protection and animal husbandry on the farms.

The Lake Constance Foundation offers regular (online) training courses for use. Participants receive the latest ACCT version free of charge and are automatically part of the ACCT advisory network.

www.bodensee-stiftung.org/acct/



More Info



and the GHG analysis as very positive The project results are summarized in the final report: www.bodensee-stiftung.org/agroco2ncept

Nutrition makes climate

How we eat is highly relevant not only for our health and well-being, but also for global food security and the climate. Scientists have developed the Planetary Health Diet (PHD) with the aim of ensuring that everyone can eat healthily in future without destroying the environment.

Out-of-home catering has a major leverage effect on the success of PHD. Bianca Mesmer and Patrick Trötschler are working on a project idea to raise awareness of the topic among canteen kitchens and their guests and make it easier to implement. It is conceivable, for example, that an additional module in merchandise management systems

could be to show businesses the extent to which their menus already comply with PHD recommendations. By recording the use of different product groups (meat, vegetables, pulses), it would be easier to analyze and strategies and improve the quality of the range.

Climate change adaptation in viticulture

The „Green Vineyards“ project is helping to make the wine sector in Europe fit for the future.

In view of the changes caused by the climate crisis, „business as usual“ is not possible in viticulture either. Increased heat and drought as well as changing rainfall patterns not only affect the quantity and quality of the harvest, but also the character and terroir of the wines. Together with four partners from Italy, France, Spain and North Macedonia, Dr. Kerstin Fröhle and Andreas Ziermann have developed assistance for people working in viticulture – several million people in the EU.

The aim was to improve their knowledge, skills and abilities so that they can cope with the challenges of climate change. As a first step, a „Green Competence Framework“ was developed, which defines technical and systemic skills for climate change adaptation. An online training program, which was published at the end of the project, builds on this. The course comprises 13 units corresponding to 13 environmental competencies. It is available in Spanish, English, French, Italian, North Macedonian and German.

The learning platform allows self-study in modules according to the user's individual schedule. Selected learning paths recommend specific course modules that employees in grape production or management, for example, can use to select suitable learning units.

The course is available free of charge to employees in the wine sector and interested in the challenges of climate change in agriculture.



www.bodensee-stiftung.org/green-vineyards-zugang-zu-online-lernplattform



More Info

Responsibility of the food sector

Appropriate remuneration is needed for biodiversity and climate protection services in agriculture. The Lake Constance Foundation is committed to this.

Avoiding overseas soy in pig farming or biodiversity measures that go beyond the legal requirements also pay off for society in the long term. In the short term, however, they are associated with additional costs or yield losses for producers. It is often difficult to take these into account in international competition. The Lake Constance Foundation has been working for many years to raise awareness of this in the food industry and to develop remuneration concepts.

Milestone: Foundation of industry initiative

The „Food for Biodiversity“ (FfB) association was founded in 2021 on the initiative of the Lake Constance Foundation and the Global Nature Fund (GNF).

The current 31 members - food manufacturers and retailers (including Aldi Süd, Edeka, Kaufland, Lidl, Nestlé and REWE), food standards and other industry players, scientific institutions and environmental protection organizations - are committed to implementing measures to protect biodiversity in the food industry and its upstream value chains.

In 2024, the basic set of biodiversity criteria for cultivation in European zones was revised (there also a basic set for tropical and subtropical cultivation regions). The criteria

described therein were applied in pilot farms to test their practical suitability. Food standards and companies are encouraged to use the basic set as a guide and take the criteria into account in their certification and procurement requirements.

Commitment in Europe and worldwide

One example of the cooperation within the association is the support of biodiversity projects by Kaufland, the Hochland dairy and Barilla. Saskia Wolf has visited in Upper Bavaria as well as in Italy and France to survey existing biodiversity measures and coordinate a biodiversity action plan with them. The Barilla suppliers visited, for example, meet the ISCC standard (International Sustainability and Carbon Certification). A training module for managers and purchasers was developed for Kaufland.

As part of the association's commitment, Marion Hammerl is supporting a pilot project of the GlobalG.A.P. (Global Good Agricultural Practice) and Biodiversity Grow certification and standard programs. Together with more than 20 Spanish farmers, a monitoring system for the areas of biodiversity, climate, water and soil is being developed and implemented in practice. The monitoring system is to be rolled out as part of GlobalG.A.P.'s new Environmental Sustainability Solution Standard.



Working together to improve the management of biodiversity in supply chains: At the invitation of the Food for Biodiversity association, almost 200 experts from the food industry traveled to the international conference in Berlin in November 2024.



The Lake Constance Foundation, ISCC and Meo Carbon Solutions looked at Barilla's suppliers with regard to biodiversity measures – the picture shows the riparian strip of a farm near Parma.

Another collaboration was successfully completed with the implementation of the „GlobalG.A.P. Biodiversity Add-On“ for the cultivation of pineapples in Costa Rica. This standard currently has the most comprehensive biodiversity criteria for conventionally grown fruit and vegetables.

Further measures ready to go in 2025

The aim of (renewed) cooperation with 4C (Common Code for the Coffee Community Association) is to meet legal requirements and combine biodiversity and climate protection. The project is to be launched in Vietnam by implementing measures and documenting the positive impacts on biodiversity and climate protection.

The Lake Constance Foundation and GNF, together with the Federation of German Food and Drink Industries (BVE), have developed the „Natural Capital as an Economic Foundation“ guidelines. It is due to be published at the beginning of 2025. The BVE currently has 17 trade associations, 45 supporting members and 49 companies.

The new EU LIFE project Biodiversity Governance and Performance in the Food Sector builds on the work of Food for Biodiversity. The Lake Constance Foundation will develop incentive opportunities for food companies for farmers and create training concepts with a focus on biodiversity for environmental assessors and auditors, who will in future supervise or certify CSRD reports, among other things.

Biodiversity points system for BW quality mark

How can the biodiversity performance of be measured so that it is reflected in the quality labels?

In 2024, the Lake Constance Foundation was able to further develop the points system it had already designed in previous years for the Baden-Württemberg quality label and organic label with its project partner ifab and drive forward its implementation in practice.

The biodiversity assessment system scores points for selected production-integrated measures in all product groups. In addition, farmers can claim points for whole-farm measures (e.g. organic farming or diverse crop rotations) and structures (e.g. landscape elements such as hedges). In order to record the performance of producers with as little effort as possible, a large part of the biodiversity-relevant data agricultural subsidies is used. Interfaces to FIONA, the Baden-Württemberg online application, are intended to minimize the time required for QZ farms to complete the application.

The online tool is expected to go live at the end of 2025. The sustainability working group – a committee made up of the project team, the Ministry of Agriculture, label users, licensees and various experts – meets regularly to clarify possible (minimum) requirements for producers as well as aspects of financing and marketing, for example, so that the system is accepted all stakeholders.



Our voice in Stuttgart, Berlin and Brussels

The Lake Constance Foundation is heard in political committees and associations.

It is not every that a managing director of the Lake Constance Foundation sits next to the Minister President of Baden-Württemberg – yet the picture of the joint signing of the articles of association (see page 7) speaks for itself: the Lake Constance Foundation is asked to comment and contribute its expertise. At the same time, it has an interest in disseminating project results, also in order to work towards adapting the political framework conditions.

Further development of the common agricultural policy

The CAP4GI (CAP for Diverse Landscapes) project explicitly to provide politicians and administrators with answers to the question: How can the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) be better implemented and made sustainable so that farms can make a worthwhile and effective contribution to biodiversity? Christine Kewes and Carolina Wackerhagen, together with the project partners wrote a paper with recommendations for policy-makers and presented it to members of the Bundestag and employees of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture at a parliamentary breakfast. They also had a discussion with Hermann Färber, Chairman of the Agriculture Committee in the German Bundestag, and with representatives of the German Farmers' Association in Berlin. Project partner Dr. Sebastian Lakner from the University of Rostock was invited as an expert to the parliamentary hearing on the CAP.



Christine Kewes (3rd from left) and representatives of the project partners presented Hermann Färber, Chairman of the Agriculture Committee in the German Bundestag (2nd from left), with demands and proposals on the CAP that they had developed with farmers.

This showed how useful exchange platforms with practitioners could also be for politicians and authorities. After all, what was passed on to politicians the concerns and suggestions of farmers. They were developed in regional and state platforms in Baden-Württemberg (Lake Constance, Hohenlohe, Northern Upper Rhine) and Thuringia. The central and unanimous barriers identified were, for example, „insufficient remuneration for measures“, „excessive bureaucracy“ and „lack of flexibility of measures and a perceived high risk of sanctions“.

For more biodiversity: demands on agricultural policy

How should the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and agri-environmental programs of the federal states be designed so that farmers can do more for the environment, nature conservation and biodiversity and at the same time benefit their farms?

Farmers developed their suggestions in exchange platforms. They were incorporated into a summary for policymakers. A video on the importance of fallow land for agriculture, society and biodiversity was also published as part of the project. Both publications can be found under „News“ on the project website: <https://cap4gi.de/de>



More Info

Being listened to and being able to help shape the CAP – this is what the farmers in the CAP for Diverse Landscapes project valued. They contributed their criticism and suggestions for improvement to the CAP in several regional and national platforms.



The project partners emphasize that the policy does not provide the right answers with the planned weakening of minimum requirements in the CAP and thus neither improves planning and income security for farms nor solves the problem of bureaucracy. On the other hand, the targeted, simplified and income-generating remuneration of environmental services must be strengthened and the removal of obstacles in administrative practice must be tackled and access to information and advice improved. The farmers appreciated the project work in a climate that encouraged open exchange and concluded in an evaluation: „very good and practicable results“.

In demand: EU-wide workshops and nationwide social contracts

The promotion of biodiversity in agriculture requires close cooperation both with the people who farm the land and with the stakeholders who set the framework conditions for this. This is where the EU LIFE project „Insect-promoting regions“ comes in (see page 10ff.). The online event „More than just flower strips“, which attended by 126 experts from 16 countries, aimed specifically at administrations and associations within the EU. The project partners presented interim results, challenges and initial policy recommendations to the participants.

At state level, the Lake Constance Foundation was appointed to the Agriculture Strategy Dialogue, here to Working Group 2 „Making biodiversity-promoting production visible from the field packaging“. Both the many years of experience and the innovative ideas of the Lake Constance Foundation were incorporated into the „Social contract for the future

of agriculture and biodiversity in Baden-Württemberg“. The state government signed it in October together with around 50 stakeholders from agriculture, nature conservation, trade, processing, production, society, science, churches and politics – including Patrick Trötschler, Managing Director of the Lake Constance Foundation.

Active in many networks – with research, politics and practice

The IFR project has resulted in participation in the monitoring committee for the CAP strategic plan of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture (BMEL) and participation in the dialog network for sustainable agriculture of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and the Federal Ministry for the Environment. Among other things, letters of recommendation to the ministries were drawn up in the dialog network.

Employees of the Lake Constance Foundation have also been involved in various expert committees and working groups on the topic of climate protection in agriculture for many years. These include, for example, TheKLa, a nationwide association of experts on climate protection in agriculture, and the expert group on GHG accounting for dairy cattle under the leadership of the Thünen Institute. The working group on agricultural climate consulting focuses on the practical exchange between climate protection consultants. The Lake Constance Foundation is also active in the BEK working group (calculation standard for individual farm climate balances) and in the advisory boards of various climate protection projects of Nestle, Lidl and the private dairy Bechtel. Team members are also regularly asked to speak at conferences and webinars.

Nature & Lake Conservation

Experience, love and protect nature:
We bring citizens closer to local nature
and its diversity and show them how to
preserve it with our projects.



Nature is important to me, but...

A population survey on nature awareness in Germany is carried out every two years. The results of the latest survey by the Federal Ministry for the Environment and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation are both encouraging and alarming.

There appears to be a growing awareness of the importance of nature, nature conservation and biodiversity among the population as a whole, and many people say that the protection and restoration of natural areas is important to them. At the same time, however, the number of people who believe that nature should not stand in the way of economic development is increasing. What does that mean in concrete terms? To me it sounds like: „Of course nature is important to me, but nature conservation is best somewhere else, and it shouldn't demand anything from me...“

A lot can be interpreted into the study results, and a lot can be deduced from them – but the decisive factor for me is that there is general approval of these important ecological issues among the population. Unfortunately, from my point of view, no direct changes in behavior are to be expected, even if this were necessary. For the work of the Lake Constance Foundation, this means: if not a tailwind, then at least the absence of a strong headwind on a broad front! So if we continue to implement great projects, can also hope for approval from the population. And that in turn means that we have to focus on the individual stakeholder groups that are directly affected by change.

Biodiversity in particular is difficult for many citizens to access and its loss has therefore been less prominent than the climate crisis for years. However, climate protection and biodiversity are not opposites, quite the opposite: the various ecosystem services protect us from the climate catastrophe. This relatively new concept of nature-based solutions seems to resonate with the population. Although the majority rate their personal level of knowledge as rather low, there is broad support for this approach.

A prime example of such „natural climate protection“ is the rewetting of moors. The majority of the population welcomes such projects. However, it is important to listen to and take seriously those who are directly affected: the group of land owners and managers. We rely on dialog, cooperation, the development of economic perspectives and the willingness of all parties involved to compromise. (see also page 24). So that the „but“ becomes a clear „and therefore right on our doorstep“.



Global lake conservation with expertise from Lake Constance

The Lake Constance Foundation is involved in national and international water protection networks.

Wetlands are among the most diverse ecosystems on earth. They are habitats for endangered species, contribute to drinking water supplies and flood protection, and – if they are intact – make a crucial contribution to climate protection as carbon sinks. However, they are also the most threatened ecosystem on Earth: according to the 2019 IPBES report, 85% of the world's wetlands have disappeared in the past 300 years.

Since its establishment, the Lake Constance Foundation has been committed water protection – locally in the four-country region of Lake Constance, through the Living Lakes Germany network to its involvement in the international Living Lakes network, of which it is a founding member. Today, 135 organizations are committed to the protection and renaturation of 113 lakes and wetlands.

International biodiversity and climate project

Committed Living Lakes partners in ten lake regions in South America, Africa and Asia work together in the „Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project“, which is funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Republic of Germany. The project is managed by the Global Nature Fund (GNF), with the Fundacion Global Nature coordinating communication. The Lake Constance Foundation supports the project in an advisory capacity and has taken on the task of internal evaluation and quality assurance, among other things. The project partners have achieved a great deal in the past year. In the progress reports, they described their activities for the further training of farmers, fishermen and lake managers. The partners also carried out activities to raise awareness among the local population about the problems and protection of their lake.

As part of the IKI project, Volker Kromrey and Marion Hammerl have set up an Advisory Board with global experts to provide support in quality assurance and the dissemination results. So far, the main focus has been on

challenges in cooperation with and support from political decision-makers, the roll-out of the pioneering projects and good international public relations work with limited resources.

Focus on Sri Lanka and Lake Titicaca

As part of the project, Marion Hammerl supported the Nagenahiru Foundation in Sri Lanka in developing a strategy for the development of „Community Eco-Tourism“, tourist offers from the local population at Lake Maduganga in the south of the country.

Four travel providers from Germany are now interested in integrating the offers into their travel packages.

Marion Hammerl is also supporting the project partner Autoridad Binacional Autonoma des Lago Titicaca (ALT), and other partners will also receive specific support if required. ALT is a cross-border, state organization on Lake Titicaca that is responsible for managing the lake and monitoring water quality and fisheries. In the IKI project, ALT focuses on the management of reeds and their use as a natural clearing system for the lake, as well as on the demand sustainable traditional fishing.



On Lake Titicaca, the cross-border state organization Autoridad Binacional Autonoma des Lago Titicaca (ALT) is committed to sustainable fishing, among other things.

Network Living Lakes Germany (NLSG)

At the NLSG lake conference, topics included perspectives for possible climate adaptation, scientific and civil society assessments of the state of lakes Germany and specific project examples. The Lake Constance Foundation was able to contribute experience from developments on Lake Constance, such as the use of lake heat or cross-border cooperation, as it did at a conference on the protection of Lake Prespa.

Tips for coordinated protection of the Prespa lake

Lake Prespa on the Balkan Peninsula has many parallels with Lake Constance: it is also an international body of water with various countries bordering it, namely Albania, North Macedonia and Greece. It also suffers from pollution, as Lake Constance decades ago, and its water level has been

falling for years. Intensive table fruit cultivation – another parallel – contributes significantly to the high water consumption and pollution of the lake. Experience from Lake Constance can provide concrete assistance here and contribute to the sustainable development of the region.

Thanks to the hope of further political détente between North Macedonia and Greece, the expansion of cross-border cooperation for the benefit of the lake appears to be possible. How this can be organized, where the challenges lie and which stakeholders should be involved in the process the topics of Volker Kromrey's contribution to a conference on the protection of Lake Prespa. The managing director of the Lake Constance Foundation and head of the nature and water protection field of action was invited as a representative of the Lake Constance region.

Local lake protection: Initiative for the reduction of microplastics

Clean Lakes, Clean Future: Offers for communities bordering the Swiss shores of Lake Constance

Microplastics are easy to overlook. However, the amount of plastic particles (smaller than 5 mm) is steadily increasing in aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems worldwide. Microplastics have also been detected in Lake Constance fish. With the Clean Lakes, Clean Future initiative, the Lake Constance Foundation is continuing its commitment to reducing microplastics from the completed EU Blue Lakes project – now with a focus on Swiss communities bordering Lake Constance.

The aim is to sensitize the population to the topic and to motivate municipalities, sports clubs (source: artificial turf pitches) and agriculture (source: slides) to implement appropriate measures.

Flyers (10 tips for avoiding microplastics) and brochures (action guidelines for municipalities) produced for this purpose and sent to municipalities and tourism organizations for display with an in-depth advisory service. In addition, an online quiz was also created to sensitize employees of interested companies to the reduction of microplastics. The majority of participants found it „very good“ and „good“, and many thanked us with a comment for the information (which was new to them).

The „Clean Lakes, Clean Future“ project is financially supported by packaging manufacturer Amcor Flexibles Rorschach, based in Goldach, and around 200 interested employees have already taken part in the aforementioned online quiz.



The Lake Constance Foundation has produced information material on reducing microplastics for the Swiss communities bordering Lake Constance.

Commitment to peatlands: powerhouses in climate protection

From peat replacement in horticulture to rewetting and peatland PV

Peatlands not only provide a valuable habitat for many plants and animals. They are also powerhouses when it comes to climate protection: although they only 4 percent of the earth's surface, they bind around twice as much carbon as the biomass of all the world's forests. Conversely, peatlands that have been drained for peat extraction and/or agricultural use release greenhouse gases (GHG) – in Germany, this accounts for 7% of GHG emissions. The Lake Constance Foundation is committed to peatland protection and thus biodiversity and climate protection at various levels (see also the guide to peatland protection on page 32).

the FSC and PEFC forest certifications, which certify the majority of forests in Germany. This benchmark is the basis for a possible recognition of the certifications by HORTICERT, so that no additional certification process is necessary. In addition, the Lake Constance Foundation advises Meo Carbon Solutions GmbH on various sustainability issues.

Rewetting drained moors

To achieve the climate protection targets that have been set, Baden-Württemberg and Germany are relying on the rewetting peatlands, among other things. This has been laid down in corresponding peatland protection strategies. This involves major changes for land managers and owners. The Lake Constance Foundation advocates an integrative approach to rewetting projects and is pursuing this specifically in a project in South Baden, that the interests of the user groups are united in the best possible way, taking into account agriculture, drinking water supply, biodiversity and local recreation. At the heart of the project is a zoning concept that defines different areas of use and enables cultivation, nature conservation and local recreation. This will be developed in dialog with those affected and taking into account all user interests.

The Lake Constance Foundation is in contact with various networks, projects and knowledge centers. These include the Moor-AG of the German Nature Conservation Ring, the Greifswald Moor Centrum and the Pfrunger-Burgweiler Ried Nature Conservation Foundation, so that it can contribute experience from the numerous rewetting projects throughout Germany to the process.



A team from the Lake Constance Foundation learned about the challenges of rewetting the Pfrunger-Burgweiler Ried.



To assess the green compost supply chain and the practicability of HORTICERT, the team visited RETERRA Service GmbH in Singen, among others Volker Kromrey (4th from left) accompanied the audit on behalf of the Lake Constance Foundation.

Certification system for peat substitutes

The Lake Constance Foundation was involved in the development of the HORTICERT certification system (www.horticult.org/de). It serves to verify ecological, social and economic sustainability aspects, including GHG emissions and the traceability of supply chains of peat substitutes for horticultural substrates and potting soils at national and international level.

HORTICERT was developed against the background of the peat reduction strategy on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) and coordinated by Meo Carbon Solutions GmbH (MCS). The first regular certifications have already been carried out. The Lake Constance Foundation contributed with the ecological risk assessment of various peat substitutes and its experience in auditing. It also worked with MCS on a benchmark for



INTERVIEW

„The best way to be out and about in the forest is with mutual respect“

Agricultural engineer Andreas Ziermann has been working for the Lake Constance Foundation at regional, national and European level since 2018. His expertise lies in the areas of sustainable adaptation to climate change (see page 15), utilization of biogenic residues and by-products (see page 34f.) – and communication. He knows why communication is also important in the forest.

In German literature, the forest is often described as a place of peaceful tranquility. Why is the development of conflict resolution strategies necessary here?

Some people primarily seek relaxation in the forest, others enjoy exercise – whether on foot, by bike or in winter sports. Conflicts can certainly arise. In heavily frequented areas, as in a park, this can lead to a commons problem: The personal recreational experience decreases the more people are out and about. In addition, the forest as a resource loses its attractiveness and regenerative power if it is heavily used.

How are conflicts then resolved – and what resolution strategies do you use in the project?

Conflicts between different user groups are no longer only fought out on the spot, but also in social networks. This further intensifies the feeling of conflict. Deliberative communication, which is not based on exaggeration and provocation, but on arguments and respect and takes different perspectives into account, can help to resolve conflicts and prevent them from escalating. This applies to encounters in the forest as well as in the digital space.

„Wir im Wald“ (Us in the Forest)

The aim of the project is defuse conflicts of use in the forest through active dialog and participation processes and to promote empathy between the interests of users. The Rottenburg University of Applied Forest Sciences is coordinating the project.

Volker Kromrey and Andreas Ziermann are collecting comprehensive data in the project regions, on the basis of which students at HdM Stuttgart are developing communication concepts. The central question is which aspects and channels can promote and consolidate the solution-oriented dialog so that the most concrete but generally valid recommendations for action can be made at the end of the project. Further information: wir-im-wald.de

What do you particularly enjoy about the project?

On the one hand, I always find it exciting to get to know different points of view and to contribute to an exchange ideas. On the other hand, the scientific approach appeals to me. For example, the GIS analysis of tour recommendations for different stakeholder groups can help to identify and mitigate places of potential conflict. The typification of conflicts and stakeholder groups based on quantitative surveys of forest visitors helps to better understand their views and perceptions of conflict.



Bringing a screwdriver to the woods? **Andreas Ziermann** dismantles counting devices on the Hirschberg in the district of Miesbach. During the previous winter, four points on the mountain were used to record how many people were out and about and, above all, when. In winter, for example, the black grouse reacts extremely sensitively to disturbances caused by winter sports enthusiasts.

The project title „We in the forest“ makes it clear that the topic affects us all. What should we bear in mind the next time we visit the forest?

It is best to be considerate of each other when out and about. In the forest, it is particularly important to recognize and respect it as a habitat for flora and fauna. Nature needs to be given space and time to rest. If everyone supports this, we will get further than can be achieved with bans. The aim is to enable everyone to enjoy their time in the forest in peace and without conflict.

A warm welcome for wild bees

Children became Flower Kids at schools in Freiburg, Radolfzell and Engen.

Scaly-haired cone bee, blunt-toothed shaggy bee, yellow-banded honey bee - these wild bee species are still fluttering as photos on bushes in the grounds of UNTERSEE School in Radolfzell. But the pupils have preparations so that the insects will soon be visiting in person.



The Engen Flower Kids have planted seeds on the grounds of Engen elementary school. The future flowering area is intended to provide insects with food and a habitat.

They have created a flower strip with great dedication and care. Like them, children in Engen and Freiburg have also learned about the importance of biodiversity using the example of wild bees. Employees of the Lake Constance Foundation visited them in around ten workshops to teach them about the world of the little helpers and their needs.

„I wasn't aware of this huge level of variety of species“

Father of a newly trained Flower Kid on the occurrence of wild bees in Germany

„I wasn't aware of this huge variety of species,“ said the father of a third-grader at the graduation of Engen elementary school in surprise. His daughter had told him about the afternoons with the „Flower Kids“ at home, „only good things“, as he says. The fact that there are 560 species in Germany was news to him. The fact that only honeybees and bumblebees sting, but most other bee species do not, was also news to many – and further increased sympathy for the animals. Because: „Even though wild bees don't produce honey, they still do a great deal for food production,“ emphasizes project manager Saskia Wolf.

The Flower Kids have implemented measures at all schools to make life easier for the helpers: they have built nesting aids, created flower strips and planted perennials.

Great willingness to donate for the Flower Kids

Environmental education is important many citizens and companies. The Rotary Club A 81 Bodensee-Engen supported the implementation of the project at Engen elementary school financially and ideally. Volksbank Überlingen donated to the project together with Wasserpark and Therme Meersburg. Lindau school student Leon Paasch cycled around the upper reaches of Lake Constance in aid of the project. His aim was to draw attention to the extinction of species and support. He covered 124 kilometers in headwinds, sleet showers, rain and snowfall. His commitment was rewarded by companies and private individuals with their willingness to donate.



Teaching modules are available free of charge

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

Interested educational institutions can contact Saskia Wolf (saskia.wolf@bodensee-stiftung.org).

The teaching modules have been revised so that educators or groups can use them.

The materials are available for download at:

bodensee-stiftung.org/flower-kids



Flower Kids



„You are consulted and taken seriously.“

Trained „flower ambassadors“ volunteer their time to protect insects.

„Even as laypeople, we can change a lot,“ says Elke Schwabe. The 52-year-old works in global sales at Ravensburger Verlag GmbH. She has been a volunteer at the Lake Constance Foundation as a flowering ambassador since her training – together with around 180 nature lovers in southern Germany. They are all concerned about biodiversity.



The flower ambassadors take a close look: In this young flowering meadow at Heiligenberg cemetery, „acceptance species“ impress in the first year. The following year, perennials will dominate.

The five-day course to become a flower ambassador includes knowledge, such as basic knowledge about the ecological relationships between plants and their pollinators, as well as insights into possible fields of action: What options do municipalities have for ecological enhancement? What are possible arguments for companies to make their areas more natural? „The communication training also covers how to approach people with your topic who are critical of it,“ reports project manager Saskia Wolf.

The training materials will also be made available to other organizations to enable them to train flower ambassadors. Further information at saskia.wolf@bodensee-stiftung.org and www.bluehbotschafter.eu

Role models in the community, company or circle of acquaintances

How the flower ambassadors become active varies greatly – depending on the respective life situation individual time budget and personality, among other things. They all act as role models. „With the training and the network of flower ambassadors behind you, you have a different standing, you are consulted and taken seriously,“ Elke Schwabe has observed.

Protecting biodiversity across borders

Excursion to Upper Swabia gives guests from Slovakia practical tips.

What can municipalities, companies and agriculture do to both expand and improve the habitat for flower-visiting insects? 20 representatives of local authorities, bird and environmental protection organizations, students and interested parties from Slovakia gained a lot of know-how and inspiration at various stations in the district of Ravensburg, where they learned about proven strategies for promoting biodiversity.

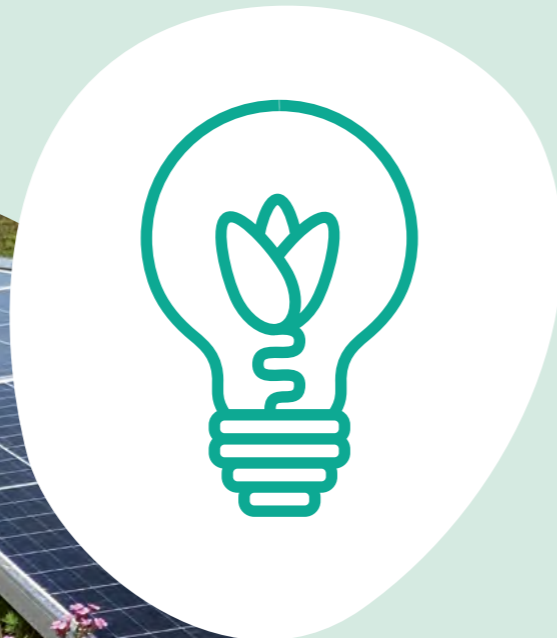


After the two-day excursion, the 20 or so guests were encouraged by the enthusiastic commitment of those involved in administration, business and agriculture. The exchange took place at the invitation of the Lake Constance Foundation as part of a project funded by the German Federal Environmental Foundation. The aim is to improve the living conditions for flower-visiting insects in the Slovakian region of Podpol'anie through adapted management of green spaces (e.g. along roads and railroad lines) and the creation of new structures that farmers can implement (e.g. flower strips). The task of the Lake Constance Foundation is to pass on experience from the Lake Constance region and Germany where this appears useful and sensible from the perspective of local stakeholders.

At the Lorenzhof farm near Ilmensee, the guests from Slovakia discussed how biodiversity can be promoted in agriculture and how it can act as a marketing tool in regional marketing.

Energy Transition

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



Co-determination on the balcony or: Let's not sit in the cold

Outside, gray clouds drift by, cool air seeps through the windows. The summer was short. I put on a sweater and turn up the heating. I take a look at my last gas bill – there are high expenses coming our way. Like the majority of people in Germany (and beyond), I don't have the privilege of living in a well-insulated apartment with a passive house standard. An unrenovated old building. Little room for maneuver to improve the situation as a tenant. However, the CO₂ levy introduced in 2023 means that landlords of houses with a poor energy balance will now face significant additional costs, increasing the incentive to renovate. Soon it will be my apartment's turn – finally. But in concrete terms, this means giving notice and renting out again at a high price. I understand that people can be frustrated by the energy transition.

So bury your head in the sand? No. If you take a closer look, you'll find alternatives. The PV module on my balcony covers part of my own needs. Subsidized by the city, practically a gift for people on low incomes. Since the bureaucratic hurdles were lowered at the beginning of 2024, the number has doubled: by October, 730,000 balcony power plants had been installed. The fact that storage prices are finally falling creates new opportunities. Keep up the good work!

Also people without a balcony can benefit from energy sharing in future, as is already common practice in other EU countries. The idea: PV and wind power plants located nearby are shared by residents. The regulation has yet to be transposed into German law. Why?

Climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, housing shortage: many things are interlinked. We therefore see it as the main task of energy transition to find overarching solutions, awareness and promote opportunities for participation – to demand acceptance as the basis for change in a democratic society. This year, for example, activities in the PV network and courses on green roof-PV combinations were on the agenda. Have fun browsing!

Linda Lentzen Project Manager for Energy Transition

More solar power for the southwest

The Lake Constance Foundation is promoting solar energy in the Schwarzwald-Baar-Heuberg PV network.



Energy for the future, habitat for nature: ground-mounted PV systems can create valuable retreats for plants and animals and thus contribute to the promotion of biodiversity.

The aim of the Schwarzwald-Baar-Heuberg PV network is to facilitate the expansion of photovoltaics in the region. It is one of a total of twelve PV networks in Baden-Württemberg and covers the districts of Schwarzwald-Baar, Rottweil and Tuttlingen. Dr. Immanuel Schäfer from the Lake Constance Foundation works as project coordinator in close cooperation with the Schwarzwald-Baar-Heuberg Energy Agency and the regional office of BUND.

„PV parks can connect existing biotopes and thus act as stepping stone biotopes, enabling exchange between the biotopes.“

Dr. Immanuel Schäfer

With information events in person and online, they encourage stakeholders to multipliers for solar energy and present approaches that can be easily transferred to new projects within the region. The main topics events and round tables were, for example, „Synergies of photovoltaics and ground-mounted roofs“, „Solar parks“ or „Monument protection and PV“ (an on-site visit to a granary in the Black Forest, which was covered with PV modules even though it a listed building, will be carried out in 2025).

Technical expertise in demand

Dr. Immanuel Schäfer and Dimitri Vedel were in demand as speakers at information events in the region – for example on the topic of „Compatibility of ground-mounted PV systems and nature conservation“. „PV parks can connect existing biotopes and thus act as stepping stone biotopes, enabling

the exchange between biotopes,“ emphasized Dr. Immanuel Schäfer with regard to the biodiversity-friendly design of ground-mounted PV systems.

An information event on „PV and agriculture“ was also offered. Around 15 percent of photovoltaic systems in Germany are operated by farmers. These farms are among the leading investors in the PV industry and make a significant to achieving climate protection targets. By using their own photovoltaic electricity, farms can significantly reduce their energy costs and also actively contribute to sustainability and strengthening the regional economy by feeding surplus electricity into the grid.

The PV networks have developed a brochure that shows many possibilities of PV use for farmers and also describes the different ways of using and utilizing the electricity. It complements the guides „Photovoltaics in municipalities“ and „Photovoltaics in trade and industry“.

The topic of balcony PV also continued to enjoy great popularity. All information brochures are available to download from the PV network website; www.photovoltaik-bw.de

The Lake Constance Foundation learned about the latest developments at Europe’s largest solar trade fair. The contacts and information gathered here about innovations, including a vertical PV system with a very low height, also enrich the project „Further development of green roof-PV combinations“ (see page 31).



Training for a successful green roof-PV combination

Cross-discipline training for construction professionals starts.

The combination of green roofs and photovoltaic systems creates a win-win-win situation for climate protection and climate change adaptation in settlements: Thanks to higher evaporation, green roofs help to lower the ambient temperature. They can improve the climatic conditions in buildings, contribute to air pollution control and noise reduction, provide a habitat for various animal and plant species and help to retain precipitation. PV systems utilize the potential space roofs and increase the proportion of renewable energy.

It is not without reason that more and more local authorities are demanding the green roof-PV combination for new buildings. Special know-how is required for the trades involved to work well together, but this is often still lacking. In cooperation with the Training Center for Innovative Energy Technologies (WBZU) of the Ulm Chamber of Crafts, the Training Academy of the Karlsruhe Chamber of Crafts (bia), the Baden-Württemberg State Guild of Roofers and the Bundesverband GebäudeGrün e. V. (Federal Association of Green Buildings), the Lake Constance Foundation has designed a training course aimed at successful cooperation on the roof across all trades. It is aimed at tradespeople, energy consultants and planners, as well as municipal employees

responsible for renewable energies, climate adaptation and biodiversity. The Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labor and Tourism of the State of Baden-Württemberg supports the training project GeWeGE@skills.BW.



The science magazine Nano on 3Sat broadcast a six-minute feature on green roof PV combinations and further training.

In addition to imparting specialist knowledge, the course focuses on planning and practical implementation. „Different trades often speak different languages. With the training course, we create understanding and knowledge about the different requirements of the respective specialist disciplines involved in PV green roof combinations,“ says project manager Daniela Dietsche.

Further training online and in person

The training is offered in two formats. The practical face-to-face course offers an intensive exchange with specialist speakers and participants, while the online course provides a brief overview of the topic of green roof-PV combinations. Both courses are supplemented by an on-site excursion.

The course premiere confirmed the demand. Participants included energy consultants, installers, electricians and gardeners from Baden-Württemberg and beyond. One participant from the Munich area summed it up as follows: „I found the training very interesting and informative, so it was definitely worth the trip!“



Contents of the training:

- Biodiversity and climate change adaptation in sustainable settlements
 - PV basics
 - Roof constructions for green roof-PV combinations: Building physics requirements, systems engineering
 - Variants and structure of green roof-PV combinations
 - Legal basis, subsidies and application
 - Planing and implementation of PV and green roofs
- The previous courses took place in Karlsruhe and Ulm. Others will follow in Friedrichshafen and elsewhere.

Current dates, information and registration at www.bodensee-stiftung.org/gruendach-pv



Contribution to climate protection and the energy transition

In rewetting projects, peatland PV can be a management option for farmers. The Lake Constance Foundation has produced a guide.

The Lake Constance Foundation has produced an orientation guide „Moorland PV“ on behalf of Landsiedlung Baden-Württemberg. Among other things, the publication discusses suitable areas, presents how farms can benefit from peatland PV, which solar systems are suitable and how peatland PV can be combined with paludiculture. If drained peatlands are rewetted, peatland PV can offer farmers a future source of income in addition to grazing and the cultivation of paludiculture. „Peatland PV“ refers to the simultaneous use of rewetted peatland for climate protection and PV power generation.

In addition to the enormous contribution to climate protection as CO₂ sinks, rewetted peatlands can also contribute to the production of renewable energy (drained peatlands release CO₂, more information on page 24). It is important for the Lake Constance Foundation to emphasize that peatland PV is not to be understood as an additional pool of land for open solar areas that are built in existing protected areas: „Rather, it is about implementing rewetting concepts for drained, agriculturally used land, with the involvement of agriculture,“ emphasizes Volker Kromrey.

Delegation from Cyprus learns from citizen energy success models in the district of Constance

The Lake Constance Foundation presents international guests with examples of the involvement regional players in the energy transition.

The district of Constance has some exemplary projects to offer in terms of citizen and municipal participation in the energy transition. At the invitation of the Lake Constance Foundation, a delegation from Cyprus met with regional drivers of the energy transition in order to benefit from their experiences.

early summer 2024. In this context, the Cyprus Energy Agency, together with the Energy Regulatory Authority, the Ministry of Energy and the Cyprus Municipalities Association, had requested a study visit with the aim of gaining a better understanding of energy community projects and building trust.

The main area of interest was how public authorities can support citizen energy communities. The background: Cyprus was expecting the new detailed legal framework for energy communities based on the implementation of the European Union's REDII Directive (Renewable Energy Directive) in

The Lake Constance Foundation enabled the delegation to get to know various real examples of community energy and business models from the region, including the Lake Constance Community Energy Cooperative and the solar energy village of Liggeringen. In the final discussion of the two-day meeting, Volker Kromrey, Managing Director of the Lake Constance Foundation, contributed his expertise from the numerous European community energy projects that he has supported with the foundation's energy transition field of action.

„We have also learned a lot from other European countries in this area. We can pass on this knowledge,“ he said.

The Lake Constance Foundation made it possible for the delegation from Cyprus to get to know various real examples of community energy and business models from the region, in the picture the Mooshof solar park near Wahlwies.



INTERVIEW

„The combination of environmental, nature conservation and social issues drives me.“

Dr. Immanuel Schäfer is involved in projects on the acceptance of renewable energies and the bioeconomy. He brings a great deal of knowledge – and conviction – to both of these areas from his studies (biology and bionics with a focus on renewable energies, among other things) and his doctorate.

What motivates you to work in the field of energy transition?

For me, the energy transition is not just a technical project, but also a social one. I am excited to be working on one of the most pressing challenges of our time: making the supply of renewable energy accessible and sustainable for everyone. At the Lake Constance Foundation, I am experiencing how innovative approaches can not only protect the climate, but also promote social justice and contribute to the promotion of biodiversity. This combination of environmental, nature conservation and social issues drives me and shows me every day how important our commitment to society is.

You worked in science before joining the Lake Constance Foundation. How your day-to-day work different today?

My work at the Lake Constance Foundation has shown me how important it is to integrate different interests and perspectives. I have learned work on a scientific basis while also taking social, economic and political factors into account.

Projects such as the „Photovoltaic Networks Baden-Württemberg“ have made it clear to me that technical solutions are only successful if they are accepted locally and tailored to people's needs.

Focused on the goal of energy transition:

Dr. Immanuel Schäfer demonstrates in his day-to-day work how renewable energies, social justice and biodiversity go hand in hand and also proved his accuracy at the Lake Constance Foundation's company outing.

What do you like about working together – also with international project partners?

Working together is a win-win situation, as we can learn a lot from each other. Especially in the area of the energy transition, you don't always have to reinvent the wheel. Almost every problem has already been solved by a municipality, a project developer or even an entire country. If you can build on this experience, the time saved can be invested in other solutions allowing progress to be made more quickly.

What would you like to be able to say about your work 10 years' time?

When my children ask me in 10 years' time what I did to prevent the climate catastrophe, I can at least say that I worked to prevent it from getting any worse.



Clean water with renewable raw materials

Project results to be applied: Wastewater association on Lake Constance is interested in using activated carbon from regional residual biomass.

It is a pioneering achievement that has received recognition from the state and federal governments: The CoAct joint project has shown that activated carbon from regional residual biomass meets the required purification performance in wastewater treatment plants. At the end of 2023, the Lake Constance Foundation received the Baden-Württemberg Bioeconomy Innovation Award for the project. The project was concluded with a symposium in 2024. Thanks to the prize money, Andreas Ziermann and Volker Kromrey were able to continue working on advancing the implementation of the CoAct process on site.

The new EU Urban Wastewater Directive provides for the introduction of a fourth purification stage in wastewater treatment plants by 2045. Up to now, activated carbon of fossil origin has mostly been used for the required removal of micropollutants (trace substances, e.g. from medicines or cleaning agents).

Together with nine partners, the Lake Constance Foundation has worked out how biochar from residual biomass of regional origin can be used in wastewater treatment plants, using the district of Lake Constance as an example. With the CoAct process, the project partners have developed a forward-looking concept for reducing the use of fossil

fuels and dependence on imports, while at the same time promoting regional value creation. Both the technical feasibility and the ecological benefits were demonstrated in the research project „CoAct – Integrated urban-rural concept for the production of activated carbon and energy sources from residual biomass“.



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

Plant engineering is required

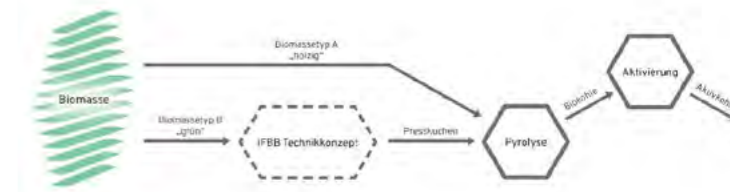
The Kressbronn a. B.-Langenargen wastewater association, which has benevolently accompanied and supported the project as a practice partner, is very interested in the realization of a CoAct system on the wastewater treatment



Developing an innovative solution (from left): Alexander Müller (sewage treatment plant), Dr. Korbinian Kaetzl (University of Kassel), Andreas Ziermann (Lake Constance Foundation), Dr. Marcel Riegel (Water Technology Centre), Stefan Stoessel (Lake Constance District Office), Christoph Mathias (Institute for Rural Structural Research), Joachim Reinhardt (ifeu Institute).



plant site. The Lake Constance Foundation would like to support this with a further project. To this end, talks have been held at political, scientific and institutional level. The Lake Constance Foundation has also further expanded its network. Among other things, Volker Kromrey was in contact with numerous stakeholders in Switzerland, Andreas Ziermann was invited as a speaker by German Association for Water, Wastewater and Waste, BW regional association, and he was also able to present the project results to the Environment and Technology Committee of the Lake



Constance district council. There were many responses to the publications on the project via the social business network LinkedIn, so that it was also possible to establish contacts with companies in the municipal and wastewater technology sector and with pyrolysis plant operators.

Explanatory video and final report

To mark the presentation of the Bioeconomy Innovation Award, the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Food, Rural Areas and Consumer Protection had an explanatory video made about the project.

The video, further information on the project and the final report are available: www.bodensee-stiftung.org/coact



CoAct

Residual material as a resource: recommendations for business and politics

How can residual biomass be used in the bioeconomy?

The Creisel project is investigating crop plants as an example.

When crops are grown for consumption, often only a small proportion is used. Stalks, leaves, husks or pressed residues are left over directly in the field or during processing in the factory. The aim of the Creisel project (Opportunities for the valorization of residues and by-products from food processing in terms of the bioeconomy) was to investigate how these materials or recyclables can also be used.

Andreas Ziermann and Immanuel Schäfer looked at the untapped potential here with the Bioeconomy Office at the University of Hohenheim. The project team conducted interviews with various processing companies. They also researched the valuable ingredients of residual and by-products from wine, cabbage, nuts, apples, sweet cherries, hops, oats and soy.

The dominant question was: Which oils, fats, fibers or polyphenols can still be extracted after processing? At the end of the project, biomass profiles were published for six of the examples examined, outlining the requirements and possibilities for the further processing and utilization of the valuable ingredients. On the other hand, the project partners have drawn up recommendations for action based on their research, both for companies that produce residual materials and for bioeconomy companies that want to use residual and by-products, as well as for political actors who can set the framework conditions.

The documents are published on the website of the Lake Constance Foundation:

www.bodensee-stiftung.org/creisel/



Creisel

Business & Biodiversity

Together with the business community, we develop pragmatic approaches and engage in social debates on how both the sustainable use and protection of biodiversity can succeed.



The horror of the supply chain!

According to ChatGPT, a modern car with an internal combustion engine consists of 10,000 to 15,000 individual parts, there are 50 to 100 different links in a global supply chain between the extraction of raw materials and the handover of the finished vehicle to the customer. Thousands of individual parts – with defined properties down to the millimeter or even micrometer – are produced somewhere in the world and delivered „just in time“ along this highly complex supply chain.

So horror lurks in the supply chain: One wrong screw and the brake fails – which happens so rarely that you can assume that the industry has this horror well under control. A masterstroke in logistics, management and standardization!

Good management or “just red tape”?

However, there are atrocious things that can still be found in the supply chain of many industries. Deforested landscapes, overexploitation of habitats and disregard for social standards or even human rights are not the exception.

Regulations such as the „Lieferkettensorgfaltspflichtengesetz“ (Supply Chain Due Diligence Act) are intended to provide a remedy. And for some politicians, this is where the real horror lies: „no more red tape!“ is the cry. „red tape“ is the buzzword of the moment in politics: Energy transition? Nature conservation? Human dignity? All just red tape!

Amazing: Organizing a global supply chain that builds a vehicle on time from 10,000+ individual parts is good management. Systematically addressing the question of which species, habitats and people fall by the wayside in the process and striving for long-term improvements is bureaucratic.

Large sections of the economy are further ahead than politicians in this respect: reporting obligations do not trigger cries of joy. The uncertainty surrounding the application of the regulations is a cause for concern, and there is a great need for advice and further training.

Ultimately, however, there is a growing need to effectively integrate biodiversity into business activities, both for the common good and in the company’s own healthy interests, in order to ensure long-term economic success by securing raw materials and minimizing risks. In this sense supply chain regulations or European regulations such as CSRD and CSDDD are not „just red tape“, but regulations that compel good management. In the end, it boils down to approaches that companies are very familiar with: Plan, Implement, Review and Act. Does that include some bureaucracy? Perhaps. In any case, it is good – or at least better – management in terms of biodiversity than we have now.



Biodiversity doesn't concern me. Or does it?

Many companies are not aware of their dependence on and influence on biodiversity. The Lake Constance Foundation provides support with analysis and risk management.



The World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Risks Report 2023 lists the loss of biodiversity as one of the fastest growing global risks. The economy is dependent on intact nature and its ecosystem services (e.g. clean water, protection against erosion, etc.) – and it has a direct impact on nature. This underlines the need for legal and policy measures that companies and financial institutions to consistently monitor, assess and disclose the impact of their economic activities on biodiversity.

Companies are increasingly faced with regulations and obligations, both at international and EU level, as well as in a national context (keyword ESRS and CSRD). Customers and potential employees are also demanding accountability for responsible actions.

Overview thanks to Biodiversity Check

The dependence on biodiversity is not always as obvious as in the food sector. „No bees, no fruit. Without fruit, no jam“ - this fact has been the basis for SCHWARTAUER WERKE GmbH & Co. KG's commitment to biodiversity for many years, reports Sustainability Manager Julia Schäfer. But what impact do marketing, purchasing or real estate, for example, have on biodiversity? In principle, all areas of the company

As part of the biodiversity check, SCHWARTAUER WERKE looked at the origin of the Spanish apricots. They are now committed to sustainable water management in the region, which ensures lower water consumption, optimizes the nutrient input into the soil and promotes soil health and soil life.

can cause biodiversity loss or be dependent on ecosystem services. The sustainability manager wanted to investigate how in detail.

„No fruit without bees. No fruit, no jam“

Julia Schäfer, Sustainability Manager
SCHWARTAUER WERKE GmbH & Co. KG

„Not an off-the-shelf solution“

„However, I myself lacked the necessary biological and agricultural expertise to explain to my colleagues in the departments involved what exactly needed to be done,“ she explains. That's why Julia Schäfer enlisted the support of the Lake Constance Foundation and the Global Nature Fund. The organizations developed the Biodiversity Check. It is based on the objectives of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, sustainable use of resources and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization

of genetic resources. The impacts on and dependencies on biodiversity are diverse and vary greatly depending on the company. „They cannot be represented with a single indicator, there is no off-the-shelf solution,“ emphasizes Sven Schulz, program manager at the Lake Constance Foundation. The Biodiversity Check helps to identify correlations and define practical measures. The report can serve as input for reporting in accordance with SFRD, CSRD under ESRS E4, EMAS or GRI - and also for communication and marketing in the context of the Green Claims Directive.

From analysis to action plan

In concrete terms, this meant the Schwartauer Werke: Once the scope and limits of the analysis had been determined, Marion Hammerl, Michael Scholz and colleagues from GNF looked through existing sustainability information from the company. Julia Schäfer then received a comprehensive questionnaire, for which she collected answers with the various departments. For example, the questionnaire covered the countries of origin and production circumstances of the processed fruit. Building on this, in-depth interviews were conducted with colleagues from the Purchasing, Environmental Management and Technology departments.

The result was a detailed analysis and specific recommendations. These were discussed in specialist departments and management so that a Biodiversity Action Plan with objectives, measures and responsibilities could be drawn up. After all, the analysis is only the first step. The goal is action. At Schwartauer Werke, this also means seeking contact with competitors in order to develop common standards, for example. In this way, producers and retail chains could offer farmers reliability and an appropriate fee for their biodiversity services (see page 16, Food for Biodiversity Association).

Around 200 companies have already used the Biodiversity Check. Deutsche Milchkontor (DMK Group), for example, is currently using the check to further develop its biodiversity strategy for DMK Germany and DMK Netherlands. But this is also possible: after the check, one company decided to focus on climate protection. Julia Schäfer sees the results of the Biodiversity Check as positive. She is using the approach and findings to draw up a biodiversity strategy for Schwartauer Werke's parent company, the Swiss Hero Group.



Biodiversity Quick Check

The Biodiversity Quick Check serves as a low-threshold offer for companies looking for an introduction to the topic by providing a concentrated introduction the discussion of biodiversity.

Companies can either use the Biodiversity QuickCheck to the next steps on their own, e.g. to develop a biodiversity strategy or to integrate targets and measures their sustainability program. Alternatively, they can carry out a full biodiversity check together with the biodiversity experts, which provides deeper insights and analysis.

The Quick Check is also offered in sector-specific convoys.

www.bodensee-stiftung.org/angebot-fuer-unternehmen-biodiversity-quick-check



More Info



Risk management in practice

How the Liebenau Foundation joins climate protection and biodiversity protection and climate change adaptation together and develops them with the support of the Lake Constance Foundation.

„In the past, a lawn would have been laid out here,“ says landscape planner Thomas Wuttke, pointing to an inner courtyard in the newly built St. Raphael care center in Liebenau. The area is designed with a variety of small structures – with sandy areas, deadwood elements and dry stone walls. A warmth-loving butterfly and wildflower border was created to suit the location and supplemented with other native perennials. Insects and other small animals find a fully-fledged habitat with nesting sites, food and water in a retention basin.

Six pilot locations as experimental spaces

„Haus St. Raphael“ is one of six pilot locations of the Liebenau Foundation. As a provider of facilities, the social enterprise is active in around 130 communities and has a wide variety of green spaces at its disposal. As part of the „Future Green“ project, the foundation is testing how biodiversity can be used to support climate change adaptation and climate protection in property management.

The Lake Constance Foundation accompanies and supports the new design and redesign of outdoor areas as well as the extensive maintenance of green spaces. It also highlights

how future greenery can be used for therapy and activation programs in retirement and nursing homes as well as educational institutions. „It is particularly nice to see that the concept of biodiverse future greenery actually has a very positive effect on the residents and staff on site. They appreciate the newly created recreational areas and are very aware of their diversity and attractiveness,“ says Daniela Dietsche, project manager at the Lake Constance Foundation.

Looking at properties is often the first step in corporate biodiversity management – with an impact that should not be underestimated: both the construction and use of properties and land have an influence on biodiversity. An „increase“ in biodiversity reduces risks: it increases the diversity of species on the site and the quality of stay, has cooling effects, reduces flooding and the consequences of periods of drought, and can also reduce maintenance costs.

„It's particularly nice to see that the concept of biodiverse future greenery actually has a very positive effect on the residents and staff on site.“

Goal: Transferability to other locations

All of these aspects are taken into account – and evaluated – when designing the pilot areas at the Liebenau Foundation. For example, the transferability of the measures to other locations is being examined, service specifications including the (maintenance) costs are being drawn up, the



Landscape planner Thomas Wuttke designed the nature-oriented design of the area at the new St. Raphael building and is holding up the corresponding plan in the photo.



A few months later, the area is not only blooming, but also humming and buzzing to the delight of the residents.

skills that employees who implement the measures should have and how communication can promote acceptance of the changes are being worked out. Our ultimate goal is to systematize property management – as a model for large real estate companies as well. The Lake Constance Foundation offers the „Nature Incorporate“ monitoring tool to help companies monitor the development of biodiversity on their sites over the years. This is because there is often a lack of overview of land and green structures on the one hand and the biodiversity potential at the sites on the other.

Foundation passes on experience

Employees from building yards and gardening and landscaping specialists were able to benefit from the Liebenau Foundation's experience in a training course. „The great interest in this encourages us to continue promoting at our sites“ concludes Daniel Assfalg, Head of Horticulture at the Liebenau Foundation. In the future, the pilot sites will continue to serve as places of learning for (landscape) gardeners and other interest groups.

Cross-professional offer: AZUBI gardens

Biodiversity and climate change adaptation with team building and enhancement of the quality of stay

With „AZUBI-Gärten“, the Lake Constance Foundation has developed a concept that teaches young people at the start of their careers both the basics of biodiversity and its importance as a basis for life, as well as the know-how on how they can develop and implement a biodiversity-promoting measure for the company premises of their respective employer.

The project was successfully implemented in pilot companies in Constance and Bad Urach. The „AZUBI-Gärten“ concept is now available as a service offered by the Lake Constance Foundation for interested companies. Training materials are also available free of charge for educational institutions and training managers.

Cross-professional offer

The two-part training course for trainees – regardless of their profession – not only imparts theoretical knowledge, but also gives them the opportunity to apply the knowledge

„Zukunftsgrün“

The aim of the Interreg project is to develop solutions for the sustainability of settlement areas and to bring them into broad application, enabling synergies between climate protection, protection of and adaptation to the consequences of climate change.

„Zukunftsgrün“ creates cross-border training and educational opportunities in the Germany-Austria-Switzerland region, builds a transdisciplinary network with experts from the planning and implementation of settlement design, demonstrates the scalability of biodiversity-friendly, climate-adapted land design and contributes to raising awareness among citizens, administration and business.

www.zukunftsgruen.org



More Info

they have acquired to the planning and implementation of a „trainee garden“ on their own company premises. „With great openness and equally great commitment, they got involved and developed their ideas for more biodiversity and a better quality of life on the company premises,“ says project manager Daniela Dietsche about the commitment of the trainees after the implementation in the pilot companies. This gave rise to creative ideas on the way to the trainees' own garden, which, as a new green space for breaks, will also ensure a long-term experience of nature and relaxation on the company premises. In addition, an initial understanding was developed of what a sustainable urban design could look like that simultaneously addresses climate change adaptation, biodiversity and other human needs.

The information flyer „AZUBI-Gärten – Angebot an Unternehmen“ (AZUBI Gardens – an offer for companies) and the website:

www.bodensee-stiftung.org/10121-2

Proven „excellent quality“

Measures for more biodiversity are good. But how is quality assured?

Well-intentioned is not always well done: How can companies ensure that their measures for more biodiversity are sustainable? The Lake Constance Foundation focuses on quality assurance.

Gold award for outdoor spaces designed close to nature

A special kind of quality assurance shines at the L’Oreal distribution center in Muggensturm near Karlsruhe: for the first time, the German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB) has awarded an „Award for the Biodiversity-Friendly Design of Outdoor Spaces“ in 2024 – in gold. The DGNB developed the criteria for the award in close cooperation with the Lake Constance Foundation and with the involvement of other experts. It helps companies, municipalities and neighborhood developers to design and maintain areas on built-up properties, facades and roofs in such a way that they support the preservation of species and ecosystem diversity.



DGNB Sustainability Day: All the places for a guided tour focusing on biodiversity were quickly taken, while Daniela Dietsche and Sven Schulz presented the Lake Constance Foundation’s offerings.

The award was a big step for L’Oreal. The award was at least as big a step for the Lake Constance Foundation in its long-standing commitment to the mainstreaming of nature-oriented company premises.

„We are very pleased and proud that we were able to gain the DGNB as a cooperation partner and certifier,“ says Sven Schulz. The program manager for companies and biodiversity associates certification with further prospects: „If companies are convinced of the need for biodiversity

measures on their properties, this can be the starting point for company-wide biodiversity management.

Licensed DGNB biodiversity managers

The certification system is attractive as it can ensure transparency and be useful for sustainability reporting. As a result, there will be a demand for certification experts who specialize in auditing projects in accordance with the DGNB system and accompany property owners and owners through the certification process.

„We are delighted and proud to have the DGNB as a cooperation partner and certification body“

Sven Schulz, Program Manager Business & Biodiversity

The Lake Constance Foundation was and is involved in the design and implementation of the modular training for these „licensed DGNB biodiversity managers“. The Lake Constance Foundation is looking forward to further cooperation with the DGNB, including in the newly established „Biodiversity Advisory Board“. NGOs from nature conservation and environmental protection, trade associations and companies from the planning and construction sectors are represented here.

Biodiversity know-how among practitioners

The Lake Constance Foundation is very interested in raising awareness of biodiversity among service providers involved in the planning, creation and maintenance of green spaces and integrating expertise into training and further education. To this end, discussions were intensified with participation in the „Green Table: Biodiversity in Landscape Gardening“.

In order to make nature-oriented design even more attractive and to support experts in the construction industry, the Interreg project Zukunftsgrün (see page 40f.) is creating life cycle analyses for biodiversity-friendly construction methods, which will be entered into the relevant construction industry databases. This will make it easier for architects to opt for biodiversity-friendly construction methods in building construction, where verification of the environmental properties of construction projects plays an important role in many tenders, certifications and funding programs.



INTERVIEW

„More and more CEOs are showing openness to the topic of biodiversity.“

She is just as passionate about supply chains in textile production as she is about food production in order to promote the protection and promotion of biodiversity. Agricultural scientist Annekathrin Vogel knows how to deal with the complexity of the topic – as well as the complexity of the CircHive project with more than 20 partners:

What is special about the project?

CircHive is an EU Horizon project as it is written in the book: the collaboration of 16 different research institutions and NGOs, 9 companies and 3 cities from a total of 13 different EU countries working over 5 years on the pressing issue of biodiversity assessment. Together we are developing an overview of the existing indicators, methods and tools used to measure dependencies on and impacts on biodiversity. We use this knowledge to work directly with companies, cities and financial institutions define what they want (or need) to assess and which method is appropriate. There is not THE one method and not THE one value or indicator that measures biodiversity.

Why is the work in the project particularly important to you?

I find the broad international collaboration and consideration of supply chains very exciting and important. Not every institute, not every country has to reinvent the wheel, but everyone should learn from each other as quickly as possible. The current political framework is encouraging this development, as biodiversity is now a reportable topic. However, the HOW has not yet been clarified. We are trying to propose indicators that are easy to use and yet meaningful.

What is the task of the Lake Constance Foundation in the project?

The Lake Constance Foundation acts as a mediator between research and practice, particularly in its work with the standards and companies. We can draw on our many years of experience in evaluating and advising on voluntary sustainability standards, provide input on biodiversity

In the CircHive project, **Annekathrin Vogel** acts as a mediator between research and practice in collaboration with companies and standards – including at international conferences such as this one in Berlin.



issues to our partners in practice and pass on our practical experience to our research partners.

How does society benefit from the project?

Biodiversity loss is a complex challenge that requires complex solutions and diverse collaborative action. Companies must take on more responsibility. The urgency is not yet clear to everyone - although I must say that agricultural and food producers as Barilla, Ferrero and Valio are already aware of the limited resources and the pressure on biodiversity. More and more CEOs are showing openness to the issue of biodiversity.

What we must not forget: Measuring biodiversity alone is not enough. Parallel to the measurement, we need to provide a lot of impetus for change in the use resources and create plans for implementation. If all participating companies draw up and implement their continuous biodiversity action plans during the project period, this will already be a good step forward.

The EU Horizon project CircHive

The EU Horizon project CircHive helps companies and the public sector to recognize, measure and transparently on the value of biodiversity and to appropriate decisions for the protection of biodiversity. The project team includes representatives from Finland, Sweden, Bulgaria, Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Greece, Austria, Ukraine, Spain, Scotland/UK, Switzerland (IUCN). www.circhive.eu



CircHive



Far-sighted investment for nature conservation: the Rohr-Vogelschutz foundation

Proceeds from Hildegard and Franz Rohr's legacy go to the Lake Constance Foundation.

The year 2024 began with the sad news of the death of Hildegard Rohr, co-founder of the Franz and Hildegard Rohr Vogelschutz Foundation. Marion Hammerl from the Lake Constance Foundation had accompanied Mrs. Rohr for more than 15 years and had many conversations with her about the major environmental problems on our planet – the dramatic loss biodiversity and the effects of climate change – and about the concrete challenges in nature conservation in the Lake Constance region.



Among other things, the foundation supported the purchase of breeding rafts for the common terns in the Wollmatinger Ried.

Hildegard Rohr and her late husband Franz were particularly concerned about protecting birds. They didn't just want to talk about it and donate something from time to time, they wanted to do something that would last and a difference. That is why they set up a foundation in 2005 and asked the Lake Constance Foundation for support.

Since then, the Rohr-Vogelschutz-Stiftung has called for a project to protect birds and their habitats every year, e.g. through new breeding rafts for the common terns in the Wollmatinger Ried, on which nine pairs of swallows settled in the very first year. Environmental education campaigns for children were also supported: More than 240 schoolchildren in Radolfzell and Überlingen enthusiastically took part in the „Our bird world“ projects – an important piece in the mosaic for learning about and with nature.

With the „Radolfzell Birdlife“ project, the BUND local association in Radolfzell brought primary school pupils closer to the local birdlife, supported by the Rohr Foundation.

The assets have now been transferred in full to the Rohr Foundation and in future the Lake Constance Foundation will receive the annual income. In consultation with the board and advisory board of the Rohr Foundation, it will ensure that projects are supported that make a concrete contribution to bird conservation on Lake Constance.

„We have been lucky in life and especially because we were able to enjoy the wonderful Lake Constance region with its natural treasures“

founder Hildegard Rohr often said.

So far, there are only a few people like Hildegard and Franz Rohr who have made their fortune available for the protection of nature – and therefore also for the protection of people – by setting up the foundation. „We have been lucky in life and especially because we have been able to enjoy the wonderful Lake Constance region with its natural treasures,“ Hildegard Rohr often summed up. Nature was also her favorite motif – interpreted in numerous watercolors and glass paintings, which she created with great talent.

With the foundation, the couple is giving something back and to ensure that the region with its bird conservation hotspots is preserved for future generations. A positive example that will hopefully find more and more imitators!



A selection of our active memberships

REGIONAL:

- Action alliance for GMO-free agriculture in Baden-Württemberg
- Bioenergy-Regions
- Franz and Hildegard Rohr-Vogelschutz-Foundation (based in the Lake Constance Foundation)
- Climate Alliance Baden-Württemberg
- Constance Landscape Conservation Association
- LEADER Western Lake Constance
- Platform Renewable Energies BW
- solarLAGO smart energy network

NATIONAL:

- Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR)
- DeFAF (German Professional Association for Agroforestry)
- DIN Committee for the ISO 331 Biodiversity
- Expert group „THG-Bilanzierung Milchvieh“
- Flowering Landscape Network
- Living Lakes Network Germany
- Agricultural-climate consulting network
- THeKLa – Nationwide expert network for greenhouse gas balancing and climate protection in agriculture
- Environmental Expert Committee
- Association „Food for Biodiversity“

INTERNATIONAL/EU:

- ECOCAMPING
- ECOTRANS – European Network for Sustainable Tourism
- ELLA – European Living Lakes Association
- Initiative GMO-free Lake Constance region
- International lake network Living Lakes

Stay up to date!

NEWSLETTER

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

Register for this on our homepage:

www.bodensee-stiftung.org



LINKEDIN

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

Follow the Lake Constance Foundation channel and stay informed:

www.linkedin.com/company/bodensee-stiftung



Our team

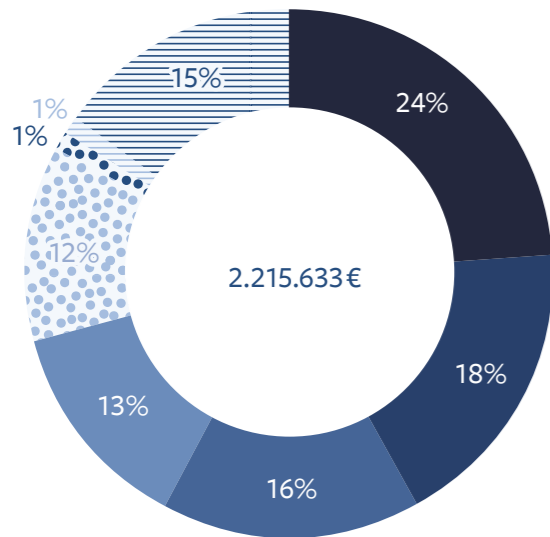
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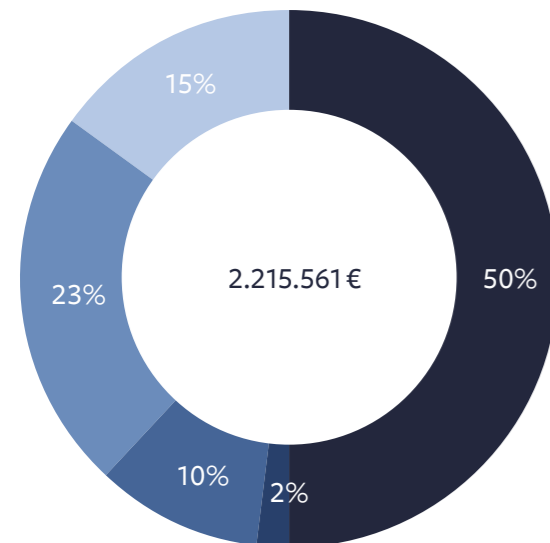


Revenue 2023



Public sector national	520.190€
Public sector state of BW	407.027€
EU Commission	366.939€
Private financing	280.059€
Special-purpose operations	273.389€
Donations	24.751€
Receivables from the following year	22.000€
Receivables from the previous year	321.278€

Expenses 2023



Personnel expenses	1.103.919€
Travel expenses	41.808€
Material costs	230.273€
Forwarded to project partners	517.047€
Provision	322.515€

The financing of the Lake Constance Foundation's activities and projects is slightly different every year. Project applications to public and private funding bodies at the heart of this. However, business partners, foundations and donations also play an increasingly important role.

In 2024, we were also able to secure funding for our project work and launch new innovative ideas. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors and donors once again for their trust in our organization and their support of our work!

An overview of the income and expenditure of the projects implemented and other activities of the Lake Constance Foundation in 2023 can be found on this page. The 2024 annual financial statements will be published on the website in mid-2025.

The Lake Constance Foundation undergoes an independent audit every year. Since 2017, the annual financial statements have been audited in accordance with the requirements of the German Commercial Code and foundation law, distinguishing between ongoing and completed projects and spent and unspent donations and grants. The annual financial statements since 2012, including the annual balance sheet, profit and loss account and the auditors report, can be viewed on the Lake Constance Foundation's website.

Sponsors 2024



Cooperation partners



Our projects at a glance

Our ongoing and completed projects can be found on the website of the appropriate field of action.

Agriculture & the Food Sector

Nature & Lake Conservation

Energy Transition

Business & Biodiversity

Would you like to support our work with a donation?

With a donation, you can promote sustainable development – in the Lake Constance region, in Germany and internationally.

DONATION ACCOUNT

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Transparency

The Lake Constance Foundation is committed to the principles of good foundation practice and is a member of the **Transparent Civil Society Initiative**





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LOOKING BACK. LOOKING FORWARD. 2025

The Lake Constance Foundation

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

THE LAKE CONSTANCE FOUNDATION WAS FOUNDED BY:

