

1) President's Report

Introduction

The year 2020 was marked by the Corona virus all over the world, which meant that some activities and events could not take place, including the trip to Zimbabwe planned in April, which would have enabled members and other interested people to meet the people in the Mubaya village, as well as in flea market stalls.

a) From the Executive Board

Personnel

The activities of the association can only be carried out thanks to the support of volunteers. Fortunately, several new volunteers were found in the year under review, so that the larger projects could now be spread over several shoulders. Mickness Mshana (editing) and Simona Materni (translation into German and publication) took over responsibility for the December newsletter. The translation into French was done by Maeva Koenig. Christine Zimmermann continued to carry out secretarial work and organise stand actions. For the latter, she continued to receive support mainly from Ria Schüpbach. Iva Stachelhaus took over the development of the website in all three languages and the supervision of the Mühle project. Jorge Martos, a computer scientist, remains the technical contact person for the website. Other volunteers, who had already been actively involved in the past, helped out on a selective basis without being mentioned by name here. We then received offers for voluntary work from two filmmakers from Marwin Productions, Moritz Winiger and Martial Sommer, to create visual material (for example, for a crowdfunding).

To thank them for their great commitment, all volunteers were invited to a (corona-compatible) aperitif on 18 October.

Sessions

In addition to regular email contact, four regular board meetings were held on 2 February, 21 June, 18 October, and 6 December, and an evaluation session via Skype with Michael Mubaya on 21 June.

Among other things, the Board dealt with the following topics:

- Evaluation of the project and the cooperation between the on-site coordinator and the Board of Directors
- Follow-up to the Vision 2016 - 2020
- Preparation of the General Assembly
- Project applications for the ecovillage
- New sources of local income (Mill Project)
- Reports on the situation on the ground

- Crowdfunding
- New travel project
- Website
- Volunteer search for work in Switzerland
- Newsletter

Evaluation with the Coordinator Michael Mubaya

The evaluation that started on 16 June 2019 with the project coordinator in Zimbabwe, Michael Mubaya, and two external facilitators, Ursula Singenberger and Matawa Wendelin Keller, was continued on 21 June. The local project is to become financially independent. This process revealed that the ambitious idea of creating an eco-village out of the existing village is too challenging due to, among other things, the political change in the country and some backsliding (for example, thefts). The vision of a regional permaculture centre is now given much more space, the activities of which are to have a regional impact. Furthermore, it was stated that the goal of financial independence of the project should be advanced and the communication with the people on site, as well as the organisational structure and administration, should be improved. The board then commissioned Michael Mubaya to prepare two documents: a long-term vision and a short and concrete 5-year action plan (more concrete than the previous vision).

b) General Assembly

The regular general meeting was held electronically on 2 May with written votes.

c) Support for the ecovillage project manager

This year, the President was again in lively exchange with the project officer in Zimbabwe, in particular to advise him on the medium and longer-term strategic planning of the projects and to exchange information about his situation.

Ursula Singenberger from the Project Review Committee worked intensively with the project manager to prepare the documents (especially the business plan) for the mill project.

Furthermore, for the two larger projects (mill for income generation; water project for the whole village community), persons are now appointed for monitoring and evaluation, and now take over the project monitoring for the board. The project review committee remains responsible for financial enquiries.

2) Fundraising and donations

a) Market stalls

The Friends organised three flea markets in the year under review, one in Sutz and two on the Esplanade in Biel.

b) Donations

In the year under review, we received CHF 1,160.00 from private individuals.

We sincerely thank all donors for their generosity!

3) Report of the Project Review Committee

a) General

When examining the submitted project applications, the compatibility with per-maculture criteria, the feasibility and the available financial resources were important.

The main focus was always on the need and necessity from the point of view of the project leader, who lives in the ecovillage and can competently assess the plight and needs of the village and the affected people who live there. Due to the Corona crisis and the ongoing economic crisis in the country, the situation in 2020 was particularly difficult. Nevertheless, it has been possible to design an income-generating project that will be implemented at the end of 2020/beginning of 2021 and should allow the "Permaculture Demonstration and Training Centre" to generate income on its own and thus also pay the salaries of the staff.

Furthermore, the water management project for the entire village could finally be tackled. After three locations for new dams and the renovation of an old one had been identified at the end of December 2018 (together with our delegate Matawa Wendelin Keller), one location was replaced by the proposal of a solar-powered pump with construction of a borehole after the feasibility study of the engineer; this side of the village was too shallow for dams or the overflowing of such a dam would be risky for the surrounding farms. The board approved the construction of a first weir dam. It should first be observed whether the village community is capable of building and maintaining it before the more complicated project of the solar pump is taken up. Another positive aspect of this project is that the villagers are providing most of the material (stones and sand) and labour themselves (free of charge). The engineer also waives part of his salary.

b) Funded projects

In the reporting year, the following new projects of the Mubaya Ecovillage in Zimbabwe were financially supported:

- Remuneration for employees

- Battery and installation of a solar system for electricity
- Tools
- Mill (first income-generating project)
- Weir dam

4) Other activities

a) Newsletter

Two newsletters were published in the reporting year.

b) World Day of Prayer

The Association took part in the World Day of Prayer on 6 March in the Reformed Church Paulus in Biel with an information stand (without collection). The documents for this worldwide event were prepared this year by women in Zimbabwe.

5) Statistics

Members as at 31.12.2020	31
• thereof members of the Board of Directors	5
• of which active volunteers	2
Volunteers Non-members	6
Donors 2020	8
• thereof CHF 000 up to 100	6
• thereof CHF 101 up to 500	2

6) Finance

a) Income statement

In this business year, the association took in CHF 2,958, of which CHF 1,160 came from donations and CHF 758 from flea markets. Membership fees amounted to CHF 1,040.

The expenses amounted to CHF 6,240.27, of which CHF 5,684 (rounded up) directly benefited the projects in Zimbabwe (without money transfer costs).

This results in an additional expenditure of CHF 3,332.27.

b) Balance sheet

The assets of the association amounted to CHF 11'908.54 at the end of the year.

The income statement and balance sheet can be found in the notes.

For the Board of Directors

Muriel Beck Kadima
President

Biel, 1 May 2021

Appendix

Income statement 31.12.2020

Produits

Membre	1'040.00
Donations	1'160.00
Manifestations	<u>758.00</u>

Total Produits **2'958.00**

Charges

Membre d'une autre association	99.17
Site internet	185.50
Autre Charge	179.90
Charges bancaires	142.00
Frais généraux de projets/ Miscellaneous	405.90
Projet 23 Salary for workers	3'367.40
Projet 37 Tools	837.40
Projet 38 Grinding Mill	977.40
Projet 39 Solar installation	<u>95.60</u>

Total Charges **6'290.27**

Perte de l'exercice **-3'332.27**

Balance sheet 31.12.2020

Actifs

Compte courant postal	11'908.54
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Total actifs **11'908.54**

Passifs

Capital propre	15'240.81
Perte	<u>-3'332.27</u>

Total liabilities **11'908.54**