

1) Report of the President

a) From the Executive Board

Personnel

The activities of the association can only be carried out thanks to the support of volunteers. Christine Zimmermann continued to carry out secretarial work this year and organised numerous actions. Pelagija Maricic, Livia Schmocker, Bemvindo Nzolameso and Ana Stankovic were newly recruited for these campaigns. Corinne Diallo finished the update and revision of the German website. From May on, Jorge Martos dedicated himself to the renewal of the French and English websites. Another new volunteer, Yannick Saucy, provided the two newsletters for this year. The translations into English were done by Eliane Stäubli, into French by Raoul Bickel and Maeva Koenig and into German by Sule Süzük. Proofreadings were carried out by Andrea Beck (English), Christine Zimmermann (German) and Yannick Saucy (French). Denise Eschler designed the order-form for the products from the ecovillage. Marie Bousseau is coordinating the preparations for the visit of the ecovillage in 2020 by interested people from Switzerland. Other volunteers, who had already played an active role in the past without being mentioned here by name, helped in certain areas.

In addition, students were encouraged to volunteer for the Biochar project.

We would like to thank everyone for their great commitment.

Meetings

In addition to regular mail contacts, three board meetings were held on January 20th, March 3rd and September 21st.

The Executive Board dealt with the following topics, among others:

- Announcements for volunteers
- Preparation of the general meeting
- Project applications of the ecovillage
- Mid-term evaluation of the project coordinator for the ecovillage
- Benefit and collection events
- Web page
- Volunteer search
- Newsletters

b) General Meetings

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on March 17th, 2018.

c) Support for the ecovillage project manager

This year, the President was again in close contact with the project manager in Zimbabwe, in particular to advise him on the medium- and long-term strategic planning of the projects and to exchange views on his situation. Fortunately, in 2018 the scope of activities and knowledge about permaculture were extended to other farms in the village of Mubaya (see Annual Report of Michael Mubaya, responsible for the project):

- i. The process of community building was approached with an external expert (meeting with interested neighbours, feasibility study, workshop);
- ii. Four people completed a permaculture design course;
- iii. At the workshop at the beginning of October, the 22 participants decided on several concrete further steps.

Unfortunately, the political and economically catastrophic situation in the country clouded the planned further work, to the extent that it could not be continued within the planned timeframe.

The Biochar project began in the first half of the year with promising experiments to find a good composition of biochar, organic fertilizer and soil for the respective plants. Unfortunately, the project turned out to be more complex than initially assumed, especially with regard to data collection and evaluation. The search for students in Switzerland and Zimbabwe, who could help with this first complex phase, was not successful in 2018.

It is also noticeable that Michael Mubaya was unable to find the administrative support he needed on site (accounting; reporting).

2) Fundraising and Donations

a) Presentation on Biochar

On March 17th, 2018, Felix Jenny gave a lecture in Bienne/Biel on soil improvement through "Terra Preta" or Biochar. Felix Jenny is the president of an organisation that for many years supported a soil improvement project in Ghana with Biochar (a plant charcoal produced by pyrolytic charring of purely vegetable raw materials and used as a fertilizer). The Agric Society Switzerland Ghana supported our project with a generous donation to introduce this soil improvement method in the Mubaya Ecovillage.

b) Market stalls

In the year under review, the association organised 10 flea markets on the Esplanade, in Chessu/Coupole, and in the old town of Bienne/Biel. On September 15th, 2018, we also promoted the project and sold flea market items at the Portissimo Autumn Market in Port.

c) Donations

In 2018, we were again able to receive generous cash contributions from private individuals and associations. Particularly noteworthy are the donations from Agric Society Switzerland

Ghana (ASSG) of CHF 5'000, Peacemaker Community Switzerland of CHF 1'255, a birthday collective donation of CHF 1'200 and mourning donations of CHF 3'291.

We would like to thank all our donors for their generosity!

3) Report of the Project Review Committee

a) General

The project review committee came into conflict with the criteria of the ecovillage, which is based on the principles of "helping people to help themselves", in particular when examining the application for remuneration of external staff. The Ecovillage project as such is limited in time until 2020 and should have attained financial autonomy by then at the latest. The various areas within the project were to grow as the project progressed and, in addition to income for self-sufficiency, increasingly generate income for the project and the people who manage it together with Mike Mubaya. With the remuneration of employees, a dependence on the financial pot from Switzerland is created, which could hardly be terminated again without further ado. This triggered a lot of discussion and questions: Will it be possible to replace the project in 2020 and survive financially on its own? Will enough imitators be motivated to continue permaculture (permanent agriculture in this sense)? Wasn't the concept of the project sufficiently adapted to the situation? These questions are difficult to answer in the context of a country with a heavy political and economic burden and little planning security. In addition, the project manager, Mike Mubaya, has been dealing with health problems since 2017 and is therefore not fully operational. All the questions will have to be discussed with Mike Mubaya next year.

b) Financed Projects

In addition to the Biochar project (see above), seven new projects of the Mubaya Ecovillage in Zimbabwe were financially supported in the year under review:

- Health project / Health recovery, Mike Mubaya
- Employment of project staff
- Master Plan – Transformation-Training
- Permaculture design course for four villagers
- Installation of an electric water pump
- Security fences for four more courtyards
- Participation in a Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) Africa Conference

The fishpond project, which was partially financed in 2016 and the excavation of the reservoir planned for 2017 were completed.

4) Further Activities

a) Newsletter

Two newsletters were published in the year under review. These newsletters were newly activated on Facebook and the mailing was generated directly from the Internet.

b) Travel preparations for the visit to the ecovillage in 2020

To ascertain the interests of members and sympathisers who may wish to participate in the planned visit to the ecovillage, an electronic survey was carried out at the end of the year, which will be evaluated at the beginning of 2019.

c) Products of the village

When dispatching the December newsletter, an order -form for products (handmade blankets, herbs and tea) from the village was sent out for the first time.

5) Statistics

Members as of 31.12.2018 **35**

- of which, Executive Board members 4
- of which, volunteers 4

Volunteers Non-members **15**

Donors 2018 **63**

- of which, CHF 0 to 100 47
- of which, CHF 101 to 500 13
- of which, CHF 501 to 1'000 1
- of which, CHF 1'001 to 5'000 2

6) Finances

a) Income statement

In this financial year, the association received CHF 18'125, of which CHF 13'627.60 came from donations and CHF 3'602.30 from charity events and flea markets.

The membership fees amounted to CHF 895.

Expenses amounted to CHF 20'884.70, of which CHF 18'183.30 directly benefited the projects in Zimbabwe (excluding money transfer costs). In addition, CHF 1'431.70 was spent on the preparation of a crowdfunding project in 2019.

This resulted in an additional expense of CHF 2'759.82.

b) Balance sheet

At the end of the year, the association's assets amounted to CHF 16,102.90, of which 14,857 were linked to the Biochar project.

The income statement and balance sheet can be found enclosed.

For the Board

Muriel Beck Kadima
President

Bienne/Biel, February 2nd, 2019

Enclosure

Erfolgsrechnung 31.12.2018

Produits

Membre	865.00
Manifestations	3'602.30
Donations	4'166.88
Don Anniversaire Bruno Baumgartner	1'200.00
Don Martin Reinhard	3'290.70
Don ASSG (Biochar)	5'000.00
Total des produits	18'124.88

Charges

Membre d'une autre association	40.00
Site internet	864.25
Autres charges	222.00
Charge bancaires	145.50
Biochar charges	5'143.00
Frais généraux de projets	304.00
Projet 10 Dam restoration	1'266.60
Projet 18 Fish pond	396.00
Projet 21 Health recovery Michael Mubaya	1'103.85
Projet 23 Salary for 2 workers	2'412.10
Projet 25 Development of masterplan	2'745.20
Projet 27 Permaculture design course for 5 homesteads	1'584.20
Projet 28 Borehole 3: Installation of electric pump	515.00
Projet 29 Security fences for other homesteads	2'047.00
Projet 30 GEN conference	664.30
Projet 31 Crowdfunding	1'431.70
Total des charges	20'884.70

Perte

-2'759.82

Bilanz 31. 12. 2018

Actifs

Compte courant postal	1'245.90
Compte Biochar	14'857.00
Total Actifs	16'102.90

Passifs

Capital propre	3'466.64
Bénéfice reporté / Perte reportée	15'396.08
Perte	-2'759.82
Total Passifs	16'102.90