

Annual report 2023

In our annual report, we would like to present the progress of our work, as well as the challenges and problems of the past year in a transparent manner and go into more detail about our association's work. The annual report is divided into the activity report and the financial report. The activity report explains the progress in the respective departments Operations, Technology and Marketing & Fundraising. The financial report shows separately the financial development of the association.

Activity report

Operations

The year 2023 started with a 3-week research cooperation in South Africa, during which Isabel Erben (intern) investigated Cape Town as a new project location. She mainly dealt with the situation in the townships, which NGOs are currently working in the country and which eating habits prevail in Cape Town. She was able to establish initial direct contacts and provide the association with an informative travel report. At the moment, Cape Town is an interesting location, but a local partner network needs to be established first.

At the same time in January, we received an inquiry from our partner Inua Village to Global Foundation (IVTG) in Ebukanga. IVTG had been given the opportunity to drill a well at short notice. Thriving Green contributed the pro rata project costs of €1000. The water from the well supplies the school with 300-350 children and the staff who run the school. In addition, around 30-60 families living nearby can also be supplied with drinking water and the Inua Farm, which supplies the school with vegetables, can be irrigated all year round. The well construction also brings benefits for Thriving Green, as the spirulina basin in Ebukanga is currently not being used due to difficult climatic conditions. Thanks to the access to clean water, it is now possible to convert the basin into a hydroponic system. A hydroponic system is a resource-saving integrated system that enables plant cultivation with high food yields. This idea has been increasingly pursued since the end of 2023.

In April, Marie Oßner (Treasurer) travelled to Kenya to visit our partner organizations in person at the various locations and discuss the current situation and potential problems. As part of this trip, she was also able to visit the new well in Ebukanga, which provides the school and community with a reliable supply of water. During her meeting with the Intergovernmental Institution for the use of Micro-Algae against Malnutrition (IIMSAM), it became clear that the local cultivation of spirulina is difficult due to fertilizer shortages and that there is strong competition from cheap Chinese

spirulina. Finally, Marie also visited our partner Edward Kute at Buheri Farms in Kisumu. Edward had previously worked with Thriving Green, but had to give up his successful spirulina farm due to the coronavirus crisis. He is now working on a new sustainable farm that relies on greenhouses. Due to the many years of cooperation, Thriving Green granted Edward a microloan of €2000 in August, of which €1000 must be repaid. Edward used these funds to buy shade nets, fertilizer and pipes to set up a drip irrigation system.

Concluding, there is some additional good news: There is a new member in Operations! Since the middle of the year, Philipp Offensperger has been actively supporting us in the management and further development of our locations.

Technology

The technical team was also on the road at the beginning of the year! In Western Sahara near Dakhla, the new sensor version was tested in an algae basin. Our two new partners Viride and ProTerra have set up a facility there where they want to combine microalgae and fish farming ecologically and efficiently. Viride, a start-up from the Frankfurt area, cultivates microalgae to bind CO₂ and provide alternative sources of nutrients. ProTerra also cultivates cichlids in addition to the microalgae chlorella and spirulina. The combination of fish and algae creates a natural cycle that makes optimum use of local resources.

The sensor was exposed to wind, sunlight and sand contamination for an extended period of time. The sensor was to spend the next few days floating in a Dunaliella tank and undergo various tests. The parameters to be measured by our sensor include the pH value, temperature and salinity of the water in the tank, as well as the prevailing algae concentration. As it is to float permanently in the algae basin, the self-sufficient energy supply and reliable data storage and transfer to our data servers also had to be tested.

The most important point first: the sensor floats, is leak-proof and the electronics work perfectly even after several days! In addition, the sunlight is sufficient to supply it with enough energy and the data transmission works. By March, the sensor had delivered important measurements and was brought back to Germany by our partners for further evaluation. In future, the sensor will help to optimize algae cultivation in order to make efficient use of the resources used.

Just like the operations team, the technical team has also been strengthened: Philipp Kraus supports us in the area of functional testing and further development of the sensor.

Marketing & Fundraising

The team continued to work on raising awareness of the projects last year. In June, a stand was once again organized at the Regensburg Campus Festival and equipped with a wheel of fortune,

spirulina cake and good cheer. In the second half of the year, the focus was increasingly placed on restructuring the website, although the new structure has yet to be published. Special mention should be made of Theresa Rasch, who, although she has only just joined the team, already regularly writes and publishes great social media posts.

Other

With the election of the new Board of Directors at the end of 2022, the association also realigned itself. On the one hand, the purpose of the association was expanded from pure spirulina cultivation to include ecologically and economically sustainable nutritional concepts, while on the other, a new central knowledge management tool was introduced. Association life has also become increasingly active since the coronavirus pandemic. This year, for example, regular physical association meetings were reintroduced in addition to digital meetings and the cottage weekend in summer to strengthen association membership and plan the next projects!

Financial report (reporting date 14.12.2023)

This year, the cash balance decreased from around € 25,500 to just under € 17,800. The largest category of expenditure at around €5,000 is operations. This includes the microloan for Edward in the amount of €2000, the €1000 donation to support the construction of the well in Ebukanga and the flight costs of just under €900 to Western Sahara. This year's income is mainly based on membership fees, although a few small donations were also received from external donors. For the coming year, the association has set itself the goal of securing new funding and generating further donations to cover future project costs.

Overall result¹

Cash balance (2022)	25,511.68€
Inflows	13,252.21€
Outflows	- 20,544.82€
Cash balance (2023)	17,810.26€ ²

Income

Membership fees	737.82€
Organizational donation	100.00€
Private donations	271.50€
Total income	1,109.32€

Expenses

Administration	- 1,141.15€
Marketing & Fundraising	- 839.97€
Operations	- 5,060.72€
Technology	- 566.36€
Credit card	- 696.73€
Heidrun	- 97.00€
Total expenses	- 8,401.93€

¹ Note: The overall result is based on a cash flow consideration, therefore cash inflows and outflows cannot be equated with income and expenses. However, the difference between inflows and outflows and income and expenses is the same in both cases.

² The cash balance for 2023 includes a loss in value due to the devaluation of Kenyan shillings in the cash box.