

Annual Report 2018

Biovision

Foundation for ecological development



A future for all, naturally

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A future for all, naturally

Cover photo:
**Mary Wanjiru from
Wakibugi (Kenya)**
*focuses on healthy food
and ecological
vegetable cultivation.*

Dear donors and partners

Who would have thought 20 years ago that one day so much attention would be given to ecology and a healthy environment? If Biovision were not already in existence, then someone would decide to set it up. Our vision back then remains at the heart of what we do now: end hunger and poverty as called for in the global Agenda 2030.

Our projects in sub-Saharan Africa provide genuine help and improve the lives of local people. We convey ecological knowledge that has been scientifically verified. This means that we do not create new dependencies but our help allows participants to help themselves.

Biovision also lobbies decision makers; it enters into dialogue with politicians, researchers and industry and calls for the planet's resources to be used in a sustainable and fair way. The current generation has the power to overcome global hunger. I am sincerely grateful to you for supporting our endeavours.

With my sincere thanks

Hans Rudolf Herren



***“I am an optimist.
I know that we can do
even better.”***

Hans Rudolf Herren
President Biovision Foundation

Project 1: Fruit fly control

Parasitoid wasps are the mango growers' secret weapon in Kenya – and since 2018 in Ethiopia as well.

Parasitoid wasps reach Ethiopia

The year 2018 was particularly special for the fruit fly experts at *icipe*: after preparations lasting 2½ years, they were finally granted permission to import into Ethiopia two beneficial insects – parasitoids that prey on mango fruit flies. Since then, parasitoid wasps have been bred in the *icipe* laboratory in Ethiopia and are an effective complement to existing measures to control the fruit flies.

In Kenya, many producers were already familiar with and enthusiastic about Integrated Pest Management (IPM for short). In contrast, in Ethiopia, this effective and environment-friendly method had been unknown to many farming families, where mangoes are also an important source of income. However, the rise in fruit fly infestations in recent years increased their frustration as they faced serious losses both before and after the harvest. “There is a growing demand for control methods that are effective long-term. We can hardly keep up with the demand for training and IPM starter kits,” explains Dr Shifa Ballo, IPM expert at *icipe*. He is delighted with the insects that arrived in May 2018. Since then, he and his fellow lab workers have been spending their days and nights looking after the wasps. His dream is to set up decentralised breeding units for the wasps in the project

“I have the mango fruit flies under control,” says Mararet Siaronji (r.) in delight, back at the start of 2015.

This mango farmer from Embu (Kenya) began her successful participation in the IPM pilot project in 2012.

Project background

Fruit growing is a major contributor to agricultural output in East African countries. However, smallholders have to cope with a quite specific challenge: an invasive species of fruit fly from Asia regularly damages crops and significantly reduces yields. The female fruit fly lays her eggs in the mango. When the larvae hatch shortly afterwards, they feed off the mango and cause it to decay from the inside. The damage from the fruit fly represents a massive threat to the income of smallholders and mango traders, which in turn has a negative impact on food security and the living standards of local people.





“Farmers’ friends”,
as the mango farmers
call the parasitoid
wasps, are bred by *icipe*
and released in the
mango groves. (left)

Healthy fruit with IPM:
*Integrated Pest
Management enables
the fruit fly infestations
to be reduced with
biological means and
the mango farmers’
income to be increased.*
(below)



region of Arba Minch but that is some way off. For now, his task is to ensure that the insects (*Fopius arisanus* and *Diachasmimorpha longicaudata*) are properly established in the laboratory in Addis Ababa and feel at home.

In Kenya and Tanzania, harvests are good – thanks to a proven method

In Kitui County in Kenya, which has been the focus of our fruit fly project for the last three years, the mango farmers are already further forward. As fruit grower Pius Mutia explains: “By discussing the challenges of mango growing with other farmers and learning from experts, we have made genuine progress.” Using Integrated Pest Management, Pius Mutia has improved the quality of his mangoes. He is also growing a range of different varieties. For example, a colleague gave him some seeds from a late-ripening mango variety known as “Kent”. This allows him to harvest fruit until April – much later than most of the other growers. He can then sell them at the local market for a much higher price. This personal initiative is very much in the spirit of the project and is why our partner *icipe* is working with regional food authorities and trade organisations. As part of this, they set up stands at the field training sessions and provide information on marketing and bookkeeping.

In Tanzania, the mango producers require little help as since 2018 they have had access to IPM training courses. Their trade body proactively approached *icipe* and asked for support in their fight against the mango pests. “When we started in April 2018, we reckoned on 200 participants – 400 turned up,” laughs Dr Fathiya Khamis, project coordinator for the Biovision fruit fly project. She is particularly pleased at the level of interest from the younger generation together with the well-established marketing structures in Tanzania’s coastal region.

It’s now the turn of the island of Zanzibar: multipliers at new locations

The project team at *icipe* is now breaking new ground and has started to tackle a quite different situation on the island of Zanzibar. Until now, the island has had few ways of controlling the invasive fruit fly but last autumn discussions were held locally with senior agricultural staff about the project. Dr Fathiya Khamis and her team are looking forward to this new venture. Their initial meetings with mango producers on the island have reinforced their view that producers are thirsty for knowledge and are hoping for long-term improvements in their living conditions.

Accordingly, the potential for establishing the proven IPM method here as well, and for replicating the successes achieved in previous project regions from 2019 onwards, is high.

Project 2: Reviving traditional knowledge

Smallholders withstand the pressure on natural resources on Mount Kenya.

In many countries, climatic conditions are becoming increasingly unpredictable. This hampers agricultural production in many tropical countries. There are clear changes in the intensity and frequency of rainfall and droughts and poor harvests are becoming more common. This situation is exacerbated by the over-exploitation of forests: Without vegetation cover throughout the year the sensitive soils have no protection against sun, wind and weather. Water run-off increases and so the water does not feed the soil or top up the groundwater.

Smallholders are taking action

Accompanied by our project partner ICE (Institute for Culture and Ecology) as part of the Biovision project, 1,500 smallholders in four counties located at the foot of Mount Kenya are showing what can be done to tackle the consequences of this trend. In agroecological field courses, they have learned how to increase water retention, e.g. by creating terraced fields and introducing targeted plantings. This prevents erosion. They have also learned that composting increases soil fertility. They have set up community saving groups for the purchase of efficient stoves to replace the traditional ones. This reduces the demand for firewood and also funds the purchase of modern beehives that improve the pollination in the forest and on the fields.

Since the start of our partnership with ICE in 2012, the project area has expanded. When the project approach was first developed (see see box on page 10), it was centred on the counties of Tharaka-Nithi and Meru but in the last three years, farmer groups from Embu and Murang'a have also benefited from the field courses. This has shown that each region has quite different needs depending upon the type of natural landscape: for example, in the dry savannahs of Tharaka-Nithi, farmers are particularly interested in avoiding erosion and beekeeping whereas those living in the damper Murang'a regions are keen on vegetable and fruit production. By diversifying their sources of income, farmers are better able to cope with irregular dry and rainy seasons.

In the dry Tharaka lowlands, the participating farmers were able to improve the soil's fertility and water retention with compost, mulch, field terraces and square planting holes.



What next?

The experience gained will feed directly into the next phase of the project when the focus will be on developing the skills required for beekeeping and agroforestry as well as providing access to sales markets. As a result, the project will encourage alternative sources of income and alleviate the pressure on natural resources. The project will continue to run the popular and well-established field courses in agriculture. A new development will be our work with project partners to develop strategies that raise the profile of agroecological issues on the political stage. The successes to date and ICE's positive experience of working with more than 50 farming organisations provide an excellent basis for this work.

Intergenerational dialogue

Society is changing and so valuable knowledge on how to use soils, water and seeds sustainably is being lost. Working with our project partner, the Institute for Culture and Ecology (ICE), we are promoting traditional knowledge, which is then combined with new discoveries. For example, the project is producing maps of the local area and also seasonal calendars showing traditional plant varieties that are often more resistant. The maps highlight the changes in landscapes between then and now and provide a glimpse of the future when global warming will cause further changes.

Community mapping:
The “map of the past”, collectively drawn by members of the farmers’ group, shows the natural resources, nature refuges and sacred sites in Tharaka. (right)

One goal of the project
is to maintain, cultivate, propagate and spread traditional crops. These are often more resistant to the harsh climate than modern varieties. (below)





Project 3: Advocacy for agroecology

Investing in the future of farming in Africa is essential. The most efficient way to do it is through supporting research and innovation.

Currently, a large proportion of the investments for research worldwide is supporting industrial agriculture. This in spite of the negative environmental and social consequences of such a model. The Advocacy for Agroecology project started to reverse this trend. Launched in 2018, the project aims to increase investments in agricultural research that go towards more sustainable approaches for African farming systems. We promote agroecology as a sustainable alternative model. By imitating natural ecosystems, agroecology aims to produce healthier

Researching ecological farming systems:

At present, research projects like the “long-term system comparison”, which demonstrates the added value of agroecology compared to conventional agriculture, are still underfunded.

and nutritious food with fewer inputs. Agroecological research combines various disciplines from ecology and agronomy to social sciences, while valuing farmers as sources of legitimate knowledge. Ultimately, the project will provide support to design new research priorities: Bringing funders to the field, creating a platform and match-making events between funders and researchers promoting innovative research for sustainable farming. It is important to focus on both ends of the investment: simultaneously sensitizing funders and convincing the research community of the benefits of agroecology.

Where is the research money going today?

There is no disputing the fact that most research funding goes towards conventional farming systems. However, it is important to have precise knowledge of the status quo. In 2018, Biovision started analysing which governments and private donors are contributing the most to sustainable agriculture and agroecology in Africa. Biovision is partnering with renowned organization, such as the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) in the UK, to determine the funder’s motives: why do they invest in certain types of agricultural research? Following financial flows is not an easy task, as financial data are not always fully available.

Nevertheless, we took on the challenge to develop and launch an online interactive tool presenting data on agricultural research budgets and flows. This initiative not only contributes to increase transparency in the sector, it puts the money flow into perspective and allows to compare research centres and the origin of their funding.

Successful launch of an agroecology platform

The term “agroecology” has gained in importance in agricultural discourse, although or even because no exact definition of it exists. This has led Biovision to work out a definition of the most commonly used concepts. One main success this year was the launch of the Agroecology Info Pool website www.agroecology-pool.org. The platform combines existing knowledge with exemplary methods and projects in agroecology and serves as a reference to a common understanding of agroecology to approach. Since its launch, the website received a considerable number of visitors.

Yes, to sustainable food systems

Switzerland lives the high life. When importing goods and services, we cause disproportionately high consumption of CO₂, water or land outside our country’s borders (the clearing of rainforests in particular). This is why we are also getting more active in Switzerland on a political level, to accelerate the shift towards a sustainable food system. In the “Agrarallianz” network, for example, which campaigns for an agricultural policy in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from 2022 onwards, or by supporting the Fair Food Initiative in autumn 2018.

Encouraging and supporting dialogue

In 2019, we will dig deeper into research investments allocated specifically to Kenyan research institutions. Kenya is an important case as it combines strong national and international institutions and attracts a lot of public and private funding.

The results of the investment study will be published and presented in an international high-level round table by the end of 2019, opening the dialogue with the main national and international actors and funders. The long-term success of agroecological systems depends on not only science and practice, but also on developing a community of actors, and it starts with funders supporting new research approaches.

Project 4: SDSN Switzerland

Every single stakeholder in the world of politics, science and society must contribute to a sustainable future. Using innovative dialogue platforms, SDSN Switzerland is helping to overcome barriers.

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Switzerland was set up in 2017 by Biovision and the interdisciplinary Centre for Sustainable Development and the Environment (CDE) at the University of Bern. It aims to strengthen the transfer of knowledge between research, politics, industry and society and develop the transdisciplinary knowledge required for the implementation in Switzerland of the UN Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

Biovision is helping to shape the change demanded by Agenda 2030

The Agenda 2030 for sustainable development was adopted by all UNO member states in September 2015. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Switzerland is amongst the countries who have undertaken to achieve these goals by the deadline of 2030. The SDGs cover the key issues of relevance to a sustainable Switzerland, e.g. climate change, responsible entrepreneurship and the transition to sustainable patterns of consumption. With its projects in sub-Saharan Africa and Switzerland, Biovision is helping to shape the transition to sustainable development in accordance with the UN Agenda 2030.



“Dialogue platforms that bring together science and industry are essential if solutions are to succeed.”

*Dr Christian Zeyer
CEO swisscleantech*



Dedicated, competent and dynamic: The SDSN team is making Switzerland get a move on, so that the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals can also be achieved here.

The process of implementing the 17 SDGs creates both synergies and conflicts of interests. SDSN Switzerland is helping the process by creating conditions that allow the various stakeholders from politics, science, society and industry to come together, integrating those stakeholders in the process of shaping change through transformative approaches and allowing the SDGs to be implemented in partnership.

First SDSN Switzerland conference in Bern

The network was launched with a national conference in spring 2018. The questions “What is the cost of making Switzerland genuinely sustainable?” and “What responsibility does Switzerland have internationally in ensuring that the UN Sustainable Development Goals are achieved?” were just two of those tackled by the 250 participants from politics, industry, science, think tanks and civil society. They took part in creative workshops and together discussed possible answers. The conference encouraged both critical intervention and the expression of misgivings by participants with regard to the SDGs; both are integral to the transformative process that SDSN Switzerland seeks to accelerate.

Shared learning processes and social innovation

The network is also committed to concrete, local initiatives that support Agenda 2030. For example, a Circular Resources Lab took place in autumn 2018 in Lausanne, which was organised by EPFL, the Impact Hub Geneva-Lausanne, collaboratio helvetica and SDSN Switzerland. It was the first social laboratory of this type in Switzerland and was attended by representatives from industry, social movements, research institutes and international organisations. Using an experimental learning pathway with personal learning experiences and community-building activities, it worked out innovative approaches for the change to a closed-circle economy in the canton of Vaud.

If SDGs are to be successfully implemented in Switzerland, many more such platforms and shared learning processes will be required. They will facilitate the development of transformative knowledge with which evidence-based decisions can be taken. They are essential to the creation of a shared pathway towards a sustainable future a demanding pathway that SDSN Switzerland is helping to create.

Jubilee

During our jubilee year, we, together with partners, donors and staff, looked back at our achievements and the highlights of “20 years of real help”.

Our various jubilee campaigns focussed on what have always been our core concerns. For example, in June, we invited representatives from our partners in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Switzerland to a two-day meeting in Kenya. Through a series of workshops, some 50 participants worked together to develop new strategies designed to encourage synergies and cooperation and strengthen ecological development approaches so that they can be disseminated more quickly. “Biovision’s partners already possess a valuable store of knowledge and by expanding the exchange of this knowledge and boosting cooperation, we can reach and help even more people in future,” said Dr David Amudavi (Director of the Biovision Africa Trust) with conviction at the end of the meeting.

Together we are succeeding

“20 years of real help” was only possible thanks to close, intensive cooperation with many other pioneers and visionaries. More than 50 of them shared short video statements that described what had inspired them about Biovision and its role as a stakeholder advocating



With over 1000 guests, we were able to hold the jubilee symposium in a special setting (8). The programme, with guests from partner organisations (1: Janet Maro, CEO of Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania SAT), was festive and rich in variety.

Cooperation with competent and renowned partners is important and highly valuable for Biovision (7: meeting with partners in Kenya, 6 agro forestry with Dr David Amudavi, director of CLEVER in Rapperswil with SCRJ Lakers CEO Markus Bütler (r), 5: Globi at the farm).

Thanks to Daria Lehmann and Patrick Rohr (3, 4: see main text), light was also shed on “20 years of real help” from outside.



ecological development, e.g. Globi, Mercy Kiyapyap (former project officer for Cabesi Kenya), Bernhard Lehmann (Director, Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG), Bertrand Piccard (Solar Impulse), Kelemu Segenet (Director of the insect research institute *icipe*, Nairobi, Kenya), Vandana Shiva (environmental activist), Sarah Wiener (TV chef), Nina Zimmer (Director of the Museum of Fine Arts / Paul Klee Centre) and many others.

Differing perspectives of “20 years of real help”

Together with the photo journalist and former TV presenter Patrick Rohr, we produced two special jubilee gifts: Patrick Rohr visited smallholders in Kenya and Tanzania where he learned how they had improved their lives through agroecology. He captured these wonderful stories in his photos for the Biovision 2018 Wall Calendar. In addition, he reported on his trip in a special supplement “BioLogisch” that we produced with the journal “Beobachter”.

A different perspective of “20 years of real help” came last year from a much younger source: Daria Lehmann, student in Bern, completed an internship in Kenya supported by Biovision at our partner *icipe*. In her “daria-in-Kenya” blog, she reported on her experiences and impressions, wrote several articles for Biovision and produced a short film on the life of a smallholder living close to the Kakamega rainforest.



“We are very happy with the collaboration of Biovision and we look forward to more fruitful years together.”

Janet Maro
CEO SAT, Morogoro, Tanzania

Organisation

Foundation Board

The Foundation Board is the supreme body of Biovision. It consists of independent members and has overall responsibility; they provide their services on an honorary basis. The Foundation Board decides the strategic direction of Biovision, appoints the CEO, approves the Annual Financial Statements and Annual Budget and decides on which projects to support and the level of that support.



Dr Hans Rudolf Herren

President of the Foundation Board, one of the world's leading scientists in biological pest control and a former Director General of *icipe* in Nairobi.



Dr Barbara Frei Haller

Has a doctorate in pharmacy and lectures in ethnopharmacy at ETH Zurich. Her work includes research in East Africa into malaria prevention.



Paula Daeppen-Dion

For many years a UN NGO representative has built up and maintained many international contacts and is involved in many not-for-profit organisations.



Mathis Zimmermann

Lawyer, specialising in particular in foundation law and partner at the law practice of Steinbrüchel Hüssy, a founder member of Biovision.



Maya Graf

Organic farmer and National Councillor (Greens/BL) is committed to implementation of the World Agricultural Report (IAASTD) and a GMO-free, sustainable Switzerland.



Martin Fässler

Former Chief of Staff and adviser on strategic issues at SDC. Many years of experience in numerous countries in Africa.



Professor Dr Ruedi Baumgartner

Former co-director of Nadel, the ETH Zurich Centre for Development and Cooperation, responsible for continuing education programmes in cooperation and development.

Report by CEO

Our jubilee year was a record year. We invested more resources in projects and partners than ever before. Similarly, the number of Biovision members who regularly support our work reached an all-time high, which in turn strengthened our independence and stability. In contrast, faced with an increasingly competitive environment our total income was less than the record achieved last year.

Knowledge creates food

Several projects reached important milestones: The spread of the ecological push-pull cultivation method for maize and sorghum proceeds apace and it is now being used in eleven countries. As a result of the pioneering cooperation between funders, local NGOs and research bodies, our partner Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) is developing the largest training centre in organic farming in Tanzania. A total of 628 farmers completed training courses at SAT last year. In Ethiopia, the long-term development of the beekeeping centre for the training of young beekeepers bore fruit in two ways: The pilot project implemented by our partner *icipe* embedded knowledge in local communities. The project was also copied in five additional regions, which created work and income for 10,000 young people.

Partnerships for the future

South-South dialogue for the systematic exchange of information and cooperation between Biovision partners in Africa is essential if our projects are to have a sustainable effect. A highlight here was the partnership seminar in Kenya attended by some 50 delegates from our five priority countries and Switzerland (see page 18). Increasingly, our sister organisation Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) has primary responsibility for the exchange of knowledge and the development of sustainable networks in sub-Saharan Africa. With its head office in Nairobi and project partners in eight countries in East and West Africa, BvAT is well established in the region as an independent, African non-governmental organisation.

Coherent priority programmes add value

- We allocate 60% of our resources to **projects in Africa that enable self-help** (see Projects 1 + 2). In 12 countries, we facilitate the spread of ecological methods that improve health and food security and at the same time protect biodiversity. In this way, we strengthen the availability of new knowledge at the local level and demonstrate concrete solutions.

- Some 11% of our project resources are dedicated to **changing the course of global agriculture**. As part of the international discourse on climate change, food security and loss of biodiversity, Biovision advocates agroecological solutions at important global negotiations (see pages 12–14). In this respect, the UN Agenda 2030 is a landmark framework to which Biovision is making a contribution.
- We allocate 29% of our project resources to the promotion of and call for **responsible behaviour in Switzerland**. Through education and advocacy, we disseminate practical knowledge on the main issues relating to sustainable consumption and the protection of soil fertility as a central prerequisite for sustainable food security. In order to further the UN Sustainable Development Goals, we are working with CDE at the University of Bern to develop the Swiss chapter of the global network SDSN (see pages 15–17). SDSN Switzerland is housed at the Biovision head office and already includes 32 member organisations.

Clear structures aid efficiency

At the same time as strengthening our strategic priorities, we have set up an integrated management structure. The management team under the CEO includes all three programme areas (East Africa, global advocacy and raising awareness in Switzerland) plus Communications, Fund Raising and Finance as well as HR and Administration. This puts the organisation of Biovision on a solid foundation so that it can continue to act as an innovative pioneer of change and be effective in future.



“Biovision fills important gaps at the interface between the protection of the environment and development and cooperation. We are creating added value for all concerned.”

*Andreas Schriber
Co-founder and CEO Biovision*

Since 2018, a larger team has taken responsibility for the management of Biovision (from l. to r.: Andreas Schriber, Michael Bergöö, Martin Herren, Ueli Würmli, Alexandra Arnold, Nathaly Brupbacher, Andreas Sicks, Martin Grossenbacher).



Staff

For us, cooperation is writ large –whether with our local project partners or the team in Switzerland.

“People can develop their abilities to act with self-determination and solidarity if they take part in all phases of development processes and project design, incorporating their interests and requirements.” We also apply this premise from our project cooperation strategy to ourselves. Biovision has always consistently integrated staff into the development of the organisation, fostered their professional expertise and strengthened internal cooperation.

Staff show their colours

We held two team workshops in 2018, with the mindset of a learning organisation. Alongside a self-critical situation assessment, we paid particular attention to the development of new innovative approaches and the exploitation of cooperative synergies. In order to integrate the improvements into everyday work as quickly as possible, special task forces or relevant departments were directly given assignments pertaining to matters like staff development, impact measurement and knowledge management. To date, half of these assignments have already been carried out.

In 2018, the 39-person Biovision team (29 full-time equivalents) implemented our vision in 29 projects, both in Switzerland and abroad.

Carbon offset

The activities of Biovision are by their very nature global and so business trips are unavoidable. Wherever possible, we avoid air travel and primarily use public transport. As a general rule, we reduce at source emissions of relevance to climate change. A report by ewz, the Zurich-based electricity supplier, concluded that the energy efficiency of our offices reached an outstanding environmental standard. We compensated our CO2 carbon footprint – equivalent to 115 tonnes – through myclimate, thus benefiting a forest protection programme in Siaya, Kenya.

Thanks to all staff members' strong commitment

to Biovision, the whole team is motivated to fill people with enthusiasm for our goals every day.



Partners and networks

When implementing its projects, Biovision is able to rely on strong partners and existing infrastructure locally.

Biovision works globally with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa and Switzerland. In so doing we pursue the holistic approach “4H + i”: sustainable development can only be achieved if humans, animals, plants and the environment are equally healthy. The “i” stands for information, the dissemination of practical knowledge and exerting influence on the political stage.

Projects in sub-Saharan Africa are developed in partnership with beneficiaries and experts from well-regarded, community-based partners. Local project officers are in close contact with programme coordinators at the head office in Switzerland. This ensures that projects have professional guidance and monitoring. The local involvement often includes training programmes and professional support, which make a major contribution to the sustainable success of the projects.

In 2018, Biovision invested financial and staff resources in 29 projects and cooperated with a total of 67 partners in Switzerland and abroad.



“Switzerland must invest more in research in the global South – that is in its own interests as well.”

Prof. Dr Thomas Breu
Director CDE, University of Bern

10YFP – Sustainable Food Systems Programme

Agrallianz

ARE – Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development

Bibliosuisse Association

bioRe® Foundation

Bioversity International

BvAT – Biovision Africa Trust, Nairobi, Kenya

CDE – Centre for Development and Environment of the University of Bern

Civil-Society Platform Agenda 2030

CNS FAO – Swiss national FAO Committee

collaboratio helvetica

CSM-CFS – International Civil Society Mechanism of the Committee on World Food Security

ECOSOC – UN Economic and Social Council (General Consultative Status)

ecovia – landscape, water, education

EFT – Association of Energy Professionals Thurgau

ENSAE – University of Statistics and Economic Analysis, Senegal

EPFL – Chair for Green Economy and Resource Governance

ETH Zurich

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

FAO working group: NGO Food/Ag Gruppe Switzerland

FGC – Fédération Genevoise de Coopération

FiBL – Research Institute for Organic Agriculture, Switzerland

GA – Global Alliance for the Future of Food

GPFS – Global Programme Food Security, SDC

IBCARB – Integrated Biological Control Applied Research Programme

ICE – Institute for Culture and Ecology, Kenya

icipe – International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, Kenya

IDS – Institute for Development Studies, UK

IFOAM – International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements

IGU – Interest Group Environmental Education

Impact Hub Zurich

Initiative «4 pour 1000»

IPAR – Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale, Senegal

IPES-Food – International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems

KSG – Kenya School of Government

LED – Liechtenstein Development Service

MAER – Ministry for the Economy, Finance and Planning, Senegal

MAI/MOALFI – Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Kenya

MEFP – Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Resources, Senegal

Mercator Swiss Foundation

MI – Millennium Institute, USA

MODP – Ministry of Devolution and Planning, Kenya

NABO – Swiss Soil Monitoring Network

NGO Platform of Swiss Development Organisations

NGO – Relations and Liaison Service (United Nations Department of Public Information DPI)

NGO Relations and Liaison Service (United Nations Department of Public Information DPI)

PAMCA – Pan-African Mosquito Control Association

PAN – Pesticide Action Network

PH Bern – Mediothek

PRO – Regional Planning Group Oberthurgau

Prometra Uganda

SAT – Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania

SDC – Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

SDSN – UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network

SDSN – Switzerland

Shumei Foundation

SMG – Swiss Malaria Group – network of players involved in fighting malaria

Swiss Coalition on Palm Oil

Swiss TPH – Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute

Tanzania – NGO Roundtable

UoN – University of Nairobi

Verband Bibliosuisse

VSF – Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Suisse

WSL – Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research

ZHdK – Zurich University of the Arts

ZPK – Zentrum Paul Klee

Many thanks

Thanks to generous contributions by private donors and institutional partners, Biovision remains a strong not-for-profit organisation.

Every human being has a right to enough food, a stable livelihood and an intact environment. We are a long way from achieving this and it will only become a reality if we think and act in an ecological way both globally and locally. We should like to express our sincere thanks to all those who have supported us financially in 2018.

The following organisations supported our projects in 2018 with particularly generous contributions:

Foundations

Accordeos Foundation, Alfred and Eugenie Baur Foundation, atDta Foundation – helping others to help themselves, Ernst Göhner Stiftung, Foundation for the Third Millennium, Karl Mayer Foundation, Laguna Foundation, Leopold Bachmann Foundation, Medicor Foundation, Mercator Swiss Foundation, Michèle Berset Foundation, Nord-Süd Foundation, Pancvis Foundation, Paul Schiller Foundation, Sandoz Family Office SA, Stiftung Dreiklang, Styner-Stiftung, Symphasis Foundation, Tellus “TELLUS VIVA”, Temperatio Foundation, U.W. Linsi Foundation, Ueli Schlageter Stiftung, unaterra Foundation, Vontobel-Stiftung, Wilsdorf Mettler Future Foundation, Yoni Foundation

Public bodies and church communities

Burgergemeinde Bern, Canton of Aargau, Canton of Glarus, Canton of Solothurn, Federal Office for Agriculture, Federal Office for Spatial Development, Kulturstad Kanton Thurgau, LED Liechtenstein Development Service, Lottery Fund Canton of Zurich, Municipality of Onex, Municipality of Zürich, Protestant Church Community Lucerne, SDC – Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Service for international solidarity

Enterprises

achtlich associates gmbh, Advise Treuhand AG, Beobachter, Binkert Partnerinnen AG, Bionat GmbH, Deepscreen GmbH, Livesystems AG, passengertv, Marti Engineering AG, natürlich – das Magazin für ein gesundes Leben, One Marketing Services AG, Rebel Communication GmbH, Sotronik GmbH, Swissex AG, Terra Verde Bio-Gourmet AG, UMB AG, Varistor AG, Western Union Business Solutions

Financial Statement 2018

Notes on the Annual Financial Statement

Income

In the year under review, the income of Biovision exceeded 9 million Swiss francs. Once again, income from individual private donors and the membership fees paid by donors reached record levels. Contributions by our loyal donors and sponsors are evidence of the trust in Biovision and provide a good foundation for stable medium-term planning! The financial support from tens of thousands of private donors is the basis of a sustainable commitment to our priority concerns and our local project partners. In 2018, Biovision received legacies totalling 165,000 Swiss francs. Compared with last year, there was a fall in earmarked contributions – this related primarily to those from institutional partners. The acquisition of institutional partners is a particularly competitive market segment. However, the signs for Biovision are very good and this year (2019), we have already compensated for the loss of funding from certain foundations.

Project expenses

During its jubilee year, Biovision was able to invest more than 8 million Swiss francs in projects – a record amount. This is both welcome and important because it also strengthens our local partners, who in turn are crucial to ensuring that the impact of our investment is sustained in the longer term. In addition, we continued and expanded our long-standing, successful projects such as push-pull. We were also able to successfully launch new, groundbreaking projects, e.g. a project to prevent conflict by encouraging cooperation between pastoralists and settled farmers in Tanzania and the innovative awareness-raising project “Sounding Soil – Listening to the Soil” in Switzerland.

Collective expenditure

Collective expenditure is calculated in accordance with the current ZEW0 regulations. Expenditure on fundraising and promotions totalled some 1.1 million Swiss francs, which represented 11.1% of total expenditure. This expenditure contributes to the sustainability of our work because independence is a precious asset for Biovision and we can only retain that independence if we have funding from diverse sources and a strong donor base.

Management and administration

The total expenditure on administration in the year under review was 0.9 million Swiss francs, which represented 8.9% of total expenditure. Expenditure on management includes some 120,000 Swiss francs for the one-off cost of our jubilee activities.

Result

Biovision implemented an ambitious programme in its jubilee year of 2018, which was enhanced by additional, one-off jubilee activities with project partners in Africa and Switzerland. To cover these diverse activities and innovations, Biovision budgeted for a planned deficit. The deficit of 0.66 million Swiss francs, is covered by purposive reserves. Furthermore, the liquid assets and reserves of Biovision are a guarantee, irrespective of unforeseeable fluctuations in fundraising, that the Foundation can continue to function, remain innovative and secure its activities in the longer term.



“During our jubilee year 2018, we were able to invest more than 8 million Swiss francs in projects – a record of which we are very proud.”

Alexandra Arnold

Head of Finance, HR and Administration

Balance sheet

in CHF*

<i>Assets</i>	2018	2017
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	4,830,865	5,062,769
Other short-term recoverables	134,090	120,302
Project accounts – partner organisations	148,034	554,763
Stock	8,014	10,018
Prepaid expenses	27,750	2,887
Outstanding donations	270,000	571,659
Total current assets	5,418,752	6,322,398
Fixed assets		
Tangible and intangible assets	39,329	50,237
Total fixed assets	39,329	50,237
Total assets	5,458,081	6,372,635
<i>Liabilities</i>		
Current liabilities		
Liabilities from deliveries and services	151,023	208,521
Other current liabilities	171,780	207,912
Project accounts – partner organisations	153,006	42,801
Accrued expenses	162,637	206,472
Total current liabilities	638,446	665,706
Earmarked funds***		
Development and cooperation (4H + i)	432,923	647,294
Health of people	0	0
Health of plants	361,955	643,133
Health of the environment	25,002	4,161
Health of animals	42,042	0
Project development	3,925	0
Political dialogue and advocacy	0	0
Programme Switzerland	0	10,861
Total earmarked funds	432,923	658,156
Organisational capital		
Foundation capital	50,000	50,000
Restricted capital**	257,939	920,000
Unrestricted capital	4,078,773	4,078,773
Total organisational capital	4,386,712	5,048,773
Total liabilities	5,458,081	6,372,635

Performance indicators



* centimes rounded up or down

** Restricted capital after annual result CHF –662,061 (withdrawal from restricted capital)

*** The reported earmarked funds indicate the capital that is earmarked for certain purposes but has not yet been spent.

The full, audited Financial Statement is available on demand from our office or as a download from www.biovision.ch.

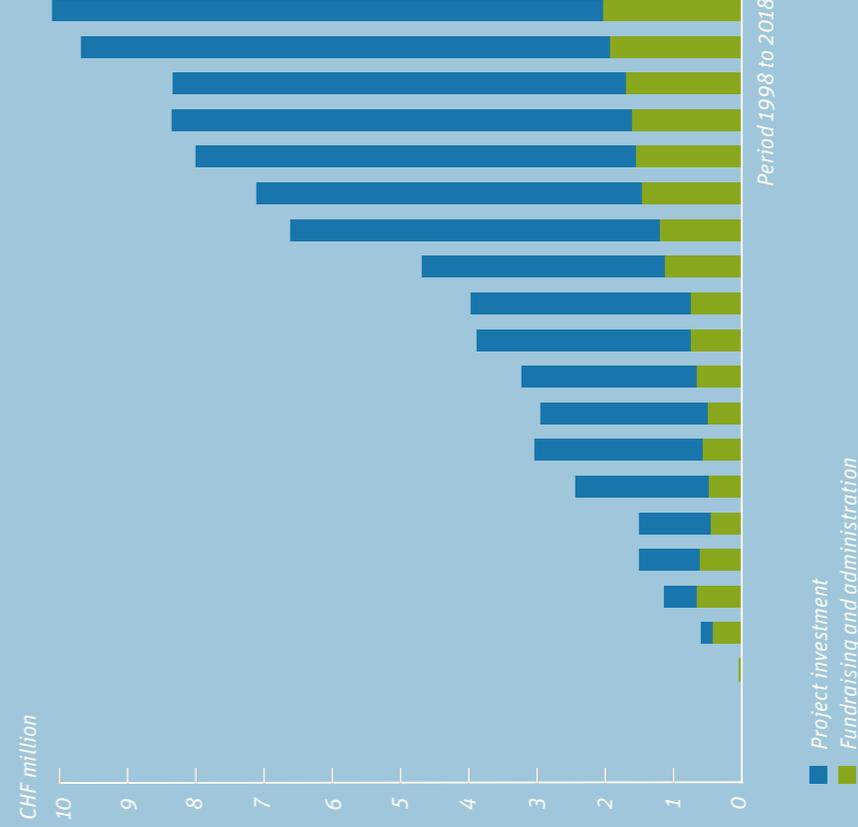
Operating statement

in CHF*

	2018	2017
Income		
Unrestricted donations	3,356,311	3,192,154
Earmarked donations	3,531,954	3,910,445
Project and programme contributions	1,007,500	1,350,000
Donor membership contributions**	1,072,221	997,233
Legacies	164,421	209,129
Other income	76,464	52,561
Total income	9,208,871	9,711,521
<i>Change compared with the previous year</i>	-5%	20%
Expenses		
Project expenses		
Development and cooperation (4H + i)	-4,739,678	-4,610,296
Political dialogue and advocacy	-917,927	-1,179,599
Programme Switzerland	-2,302,141	-1,941,062
Other project expenses	-115,525	-24,636
Total project expenses	-8,075,271	-7,755,592
<i>Change compared with last year</i>	4%	17%
Fundraising and communication		
	-1,123,151	-1,081,959
Management and administration		
Staff costs	-637,524	-694,825
Other administrative costs	-273,706	-166,398
Total management and administration	-911,229	-861,223
Total expenses	-10,109,652	-9,698,774
<i>Change compared with last year</i>	4%	16%
Operating result	-900,781	12,747
<i>before financial income, extraordinary income, exchange rate fluctuations, funds and capital adjustments</i>		
Financial income	-5,702	-6,119
Exchange rate fluctuations	19,189	34,894
Total financial income and exchange rate fluctuations	13,487	28,776
Withdrawal from earmarked funds	4,764,686	5,697,890
Allocations to earmarked funds	-4,539,454	-5,260,445
Total funds/capital adjustments	225,232	437,445
Total changes	238,719	466,221
Operating result	-662,061	478,967
<i>after financial income, extraordinary income, exchange rate fluctuations, funds and capital adjustments</i>		

20 years of Biovision in figures

1998-2018



* centimes rounded up/down

** Biovision does not use the term "member" in the legal sense of an affiliation; it denotes donors to the Foundation.

Project expenses

in CHF*

Biovision invests in three main areas: Development projects (4H + i), Political dialogue and advocacy and Raising awareness in Switzerland (implementation of Agenda 2030)

Development projects (4H + i)

Health of plants	2018	2017
DPP_001	174,119	417,924
DPP_002	106,024	92,344
DPP_003	11,300	64,750
DPP_004	0	12,393
DPP_005	160,195	115,343
DPP_006	115,837	66,262
DPP_008	122,197	89,101
DPP_009	478	48,321
DPP_010	887,952	660,340
DPP_011	330,368	114,362
DPP_000	0	0
Total Health of plants	1,908,470	1,681,140
Health of the environment		
DPE_001	25,565	33,436
DPE_002	78,470	73,855
DPE_003	92,729	83,241
DPE_004	0	42,852
DPE_005	79,468	200,427
DPE_006	75,998	61,871
DPE_007	107,191	0
DPE_000	0	0
Total Health of the environment	459,421	495,682
Health of animals		
DPA_002	130,991	213,881
DPA_004	44,558	96,718
DPA_005	39,460	0
DPA_006	73,498	0
DPA_000	0	0
Total Health of animals	288,507	310,599
Health of humans		
DPH_001	639,525	556,477
DPH_002	0	11,001

DPH_000	0	0
Total Health of humans	639,525	567,478
Dissemination of information		
DPI_001	315,968	322,148
DPI_002	169,283	192,339
DPI_003	333,665	352,000
DPI_004	274,570	276,558
DPI_005	239,332	220,893
DPI_006	103,658	155,969
DPI_007	0	11,467
DPI_009	7,278	24,023
DPI_000	0	0
Total Dissemination of information	1,443,754	1,555,397

Other project expenditure

BV 4H + i Project development and support for the priority programmes "4H + i"

115,525

24,636

Total development projects (4H + i)

4,855,203

4,634,932

Political dialogue and advocacy

PDA_001 CCGA – Changing course in global agriculture – Plus

178,285

982,089

PDA_002 More research for agroecology

323,316

109,244

PDA_003 Agroecology to combat climate change

346,210

88,266

PDA_004 KWL – extension: modelling Djourbel/Senegal

70,116

0

Total political dialogue and advocacy

917,927

1,179,599

Programme Switzerland

CHC_001 Sustainable consumption

324,892

339,539

CHS_000 Implementation of Agenda 2030

31,451

240,818

CHS_001 Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Switzerland

383,780

0

CHS_002 Sounding Soil

41,793

0

CHI_000 Biovision as sustainability advocate in Switzerland

1,520,225

1,360,705

Total programme Switzerland

2,302,141

1,941,062

Biovision works with partners in Africa – and in association with international researchers – on the development and implementation of innovative and environmentally friendly methods. We achieve a leverage effect in that other donors (foundations, EU) and governments adopt our innovative approaches. In addition, we support at the political level the redirection of public research monies to agroecological approaches.

* centimes rounded up/down

Diligence

We strive to use donations and membership fees efficiently and effectively for their designated purposes, and to provide transparent information on how they are spent. This strengthens our loyal donors' and sponsors' confidence in Biovision.

Diligence and transparency

The Biovision Foundation is politically and financially independent. It is subject to the Swiss supervisory body for foundations and is certified by ZEW0. It deploys its funds prudently and in a targeted way. The Annual Accounts comply with the accounting recommendations of the Swiss GAAP FER 21 and also comply with legal requirements and the Statutes of the Foundation. The auditor's report on the Annual Accounts for 2018 and the Statutes are available at www.biovision.ch.

Auditors

KPMG AG, 8004 Zurich

Status in the USA

The Biovision Foundation has public charity equivalency in the United States in accordance with Section 501(c)(3); donations are tax-deductible in the USA.

General consultative status

Biovision has general consultative status in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Biovision is represented on the national FAO committee in Switzerland (CNS-FAO).



Africa's future is green: The November picture in the Biovision jubilee calendar shows bio-ambassador Margaret Karanja (l.) with granddaughter and stepdaughter in her vegetable garden.



Purpose and vision

Our vision: a world with enough healthy food for all, produced by healthy people in a healthy environment.

Biovision has been a pioneer of change for 20 years: shortly after it was founded in 1998, it recorded its first success in improving food security following work with smallholders in Kenya. Sustainability, self-determination and action based on solidarity were and remain important factors in the fight against poverty and hunger, which are the key Biovision priorities. In the last 20 years, hundreds of thousands of people in East Africa have been given a chance to improve their lives whilst simultaneously protecting the environment. At the same time, we have given greater voice on the global and political stage to the concerns of those living in developing regions. Through its consistent commitment, Biovision has become a respected, innovative player. As an independent foundation in developing regions, it has lobbied on both the political stage and more generally in Switzerland to advocate a worthwhile future for all.



“At this point in human evolution, the work of Biovision is absolutely vital.”

Vandana Shiva
Environmental activist

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Financial report

Alexandra Arnold

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Biovision in a nutshell

Founded: 1998

Vision: a world with enough healthy food for all, produced by healthy people in a healthy environment.

Priority countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Senegal, Switzerland

Number of projects in 2018: 29

Project partners in Africa in 2018: 21

Project investment in 2018: 8.1 million Swiss francs

Staff in Switzerland in 2018: 39 (majority part-time)

Staff in Africa in 2018: about 300

Private donors in 2018: 24,000



We need you!

Become a Biovision member and support our important project work.



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Donations from Switzerland: PC 87-193093-4 www.biovision.ch

Stiftung für ökologische Entwicklung
Fondation pour un développement écologique
Foundation for ecological development

