



Schweizerische Stiftung für Solidarität im Tourismus
Swiss Foundation for Solidarity in Tourism

DOC 02.24

Schweizerische Stiftung für Solidarität im
Tourismus

Swiss Foundation for Solidarity in Tourism

Annual Report
2023

23rd Annual Report 2023

In 2023, international tourism almost recovered from the downturn caused by the global pandemic and has resumed its unabated growth. However, against the backdrop of the climate crisis and international conflicts the travel industry also faces major challenges. Especially in developing countries and newly emerging economies precarious working conditions, environmental damage, poverty and inequality and adverse impacts on local cultures often go hand in hand with uncontrolled tourism development. Nevertheless, tourism also offers opportunities: by creating income opportunities with the participation of the local population, by raising awareness for a healthy environment, and by preventing migration to urban centres – to name just a few.

The foundation's objective is therefore focussed on funding projects, particularly in countries of the Global South, which bring benefits to the local population and respect the environment. The financial support is intended to make such projects possible or to enable them to develop. In accordance with the foundation's purposes, SST supports organisations and initiatives that contribute to sustainable development in tourism and/or raise public awareness of issues related to unwanted side effects of the tourism sector which keeps growing rapidly worldwide.

During the year documented, SST was able to disburse grants and awards amounting to a total of CHF 139,380.-. Since the foundation was founded in 2001, it has been supporting organisations and projects with a total of around three million Swiss Francs.

Report on the Board's Activities

The board held four regular meetings in 2023.

The regular board meetings mainly focus on the evaluation of the quarterly financial reports and on decisions on funding proposals. According to the rules of procedure, the preparatory work has been delegated to the foundation's office, standing committees, and individual board members.

Funding Committee

The funding committee reviews the funding applications submitted to the foundation in order to determine whether they are in line with the foundation's objectives and with the focus of SST's funding policy. It presents those proposals which have been found worth supporting to the board for their decision.

In 2023, a total of 46 funding applications were received by the foundation.

Of the proposals submitted to the board, eight were approved and supported with a grant.

Furthermore, fairunterwegs, the former Working Group on Tourism & Development (akte) in Basle, received a substantial grant. In addition, the TO DO Award, organised by the Institute for Tourism and Development (Studienkreis für Tourismus und Entwicklung) in Seefeld (Germany), received support. The winners of the TO DO Award 2023 received prize money, and so did the winner of the TO DO Award Human Rights in Tourism 2023.

Further information on the projects supported by the foundation can be found in the section on grants and awards and on the SST website at www.sstfoundation.org.

TO DO Award and TO DO Award Human Rights in Tourism

With the international contest "TO DO Award" the Institute for Tourism and Development (Studienkreis für Tourismus und Entwicklung) has since 1995 been awarding initiatives which enable local people to have a say and participate in tourism projects and service provision.

The SST Foundation gives prize money of CHF 5,000.- to each of the winners, and a delegate of the board of SST represents the foundation in the contest jury. In addition, the foundation has since 2004 been one of the regular supporters of the TO DO Awards and supports this internationally renowned contest with an annual financial contribution of CHF 5,000.-.

The TO DO Awards Human Rights in Tourism are awarded to initiatives, projects, and individuals that have shown extraordinary commitment to human rights principles along the touristic value chain. It is not possible to apply for the TO DO Award Human Rights in Tourism. A jury of experts observes the market, selects potential award winners, and evaluates their efforts. The winners of this award also receive prize money of CHF 5,000 from SST. It was awarded for the first time in 2020.

On the occasion of the International Tourism Exchange (ITB) the two winners of the TO DO Awards and the winner of the TO DO Awards Human Rights in Tourism were honoured at a small ceremony and received their awards.

Award Winners 2023

- **TO DO Award:** Nutti Sámi Siida, Sweden
Nuratau Community Based Tourism Project, Uzbekistan
- **TO DO Award Human Rights:** SASANE Sisterhood, Nepal

For further information on the award winners, on the TO DO Award, and on the TO DO Award Human Rights in Tourism, see www.todo-contest.org.

Grants and Awards

In 2023, the year under review, grants and awards amounting to a total of CHF 139,380.- were disbursed.

Approved Project Applications 2023

1. Women for Biodiversity, Colombia / Iconic Amphibian EcoTourism Based on Augmented Reality in the Colombian Andes	EUR 10,000.-
2. Kathmandu Environmental Education Project (KEEP), Nepal / Porters Awareness Workshop at Naukunda Rural Municipality, Sarsiu of Rasuwa district	USD 5,000.-
3. Phare Ponleu Selpak, Cambodia / S'Art, Urban Art Festival Battambang, Cambodia	USD 10,000.-
4. Future Warriors Tanzania / Kiserian Village Cultural Centre Project	USD 15,000.-
5. Responsible Travel LLC, Uzbekistan / Training for new members of Nuratau Community Based Tourism Project	USD 16,200.-
6. Astrostays, India / AstroHub - Community Astrotourism Space for creating sustainable livelihoods	EUR 23,400.-
7. Colectivo Nido Alto, Mexico / Artisanal rural tourism tour in Meseta de Juanacatlan	CHF 14,860.-
8. Kathmandu Environmental Education Project (KEEP), Nepal / Guides and Porters Awareness Workshop & Basic First Aid 2024	USD 5,000.-

fairunterwegs and TO DO Award

fairunterwegs (former Arbeitskreis Tourismus und Entwicklung, Basle), contribution 2023	CHF 25,000.-
TO DO Award	
- Contribution TO DO Award	CHF 5,000.-
- Prize money for the TO DO Award winners 2023 2 x CHF 5,000	CHF 10,000.-
- Prize money for the winner of the TO DO Award Human Rights in Tourism 2023	CHF 5,000.-

A list of projects and organisations supported by the foundation between 2001 and 2023 is available online at www.sstfoundation.org.

Finance and Investment Committee

The management of the foundation's assets had been transferred with a mandate to Basler Kantonalbank (BKB). The finance and investment committee is in regular contact with the customer service representative in charge, verifies transactions in the investment portfolio and presents a financial report to the board of the foundation for their regular board meeting. Once a year, the finance and investment committee holds a detailed consultation with the asset manager of BKB. In this consultation, the foundation's investment strategy is evaluated against the backdrop of the foundation's requirements and the situation on the financial markets, and is adapted if necessary. In accordance with the applicable statutory provisions, the mandate is managed as a "sustainable mandate".

Changes to the Board

Hansjörg Ruf has decided to step down from his post on the board as of 31st December 2023, and accordingly to also resign from his roles as president and CEO of the foundation. Elena Obreschkow has been elected president of the board with effect from 1st January, 2024. She also took over from Hansjörg Ruf as CEO. Matthias Leisinger has been unanimously elected to fill the vacant post on the board.

Outlook

For the year 2024, the board of the foundation budgeted an amount of CHF 170,000.- to support projects and organisations. By providing this support, the foundation wants to keep up its commitment to sustainable tourism development within its scope and in line with its objectives.

Annotations to the Financial Statement

As at 31/12/2023, the foundation's assets amounted to CHF 4,763,899.- While the revenues amounted to CHF 374,179.- (including unrealised capital gains on securities) the expenses (including grants and unrealised capital losses on securities) amounted to CHF 314,005.-. Thanks to the performance of the stock market, the books show a profit of CHF 60,174.- in 2023. The investments closed with a gross return of 6.03 % by the end of 2023. The losses realised from selling securities and the capital gains amount to CHF 95,950.-, which is 3.4 % less than budgeted.

At 31/12/2023 fixed-interest investments dominated, with a percentage of 49.1 % of total assets. The percentage of securities was 50.5 %, 0.4 % were liquid assets and various investments. The investments in securities are to be made in Swiss securities with top ratings and good dividend yields. The strategic allocation of securities is 39 %, the tactical one 45 %.

The operational and administrative costs amounted to CHF 64,134.- (2022: CHF 58,996.-). As compared to the previous year, they increased by CHF 5,138.-, and were slightly higher than the amount budgeted for the year 2023. In the year documented, the higher operational and administrative costs as compared to the previous year are mainly due to higher expenses for the additional meetings held to identify a new board member.

The foundation's investment policy is long-term and cautious, yet income-oriented. This is to ensure the long-term protection of assets, while grants are made from the return on investment, which also covers running operational and administrative costs.

Board of the foundation

Hansjörg Ruf, President (from 2001 till 31/12/2023)
Hans Ulrich Schudel, Vice President (since 2001)
Michael Andres, Treasurer (since 2001)
Esther Ineichen (since 2001)
Elena Obreschkow (since 2007)

Auditors

EY Auditors, Basle

Board Committees

Finance and Investment:

Michael Andres
Hans Ulrich Schudel

Funding:

Esther Ineichen
Elena Obreschkow
Hansjörg Ruf

This annual report 2023 was approved and passed by the board at the 95th board meeting on 5th March, 2024.