



**FROGS  
& FRIENDS**

BIG STORIES FROM SMALL MESSENGERS



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2021/2022**

## FOREWORD



PD Dr. Mark-Oliver Rödel,  
Chairman Frogs & Friends  
| Tillmann Konrad, Citizen Conservation

After a difficult first corona year in 2020, the second corona year brought half a dozen topics of a highly diverse nature to the table, which kept (and will continue to keep) us on our toes until the end of 2022 and in some cases beyond.

In spring 2021, Hanover Adventure Zoo approached us with a request to create a concept for an amphibian house in a former zoo restaurant. This resulted in the commission to plan and realise a multi-million euro project, which is due to be completed in spring 2024. Also in spring 2021, the LBV (Landesbund für Vogel- und Naturschutz Bayern/Bavarian Association for the Protection of Birds and Nature) commissioned us to prepare a feasibility study on the establishment of ex situ conservation breeding programmes for the native Fire Salamander, which is threatened by the extremely aggressive "salamander killer" fungus *Bsal*, which was completed at the end of 2021.

In May 2021, we succeeded in obtaining a funding commitment of almost € 200,000 from the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action for the development of the wildlife database "Wild at Home" (WaH), the beta version of which is to be launched in autumn 2023 and will be implemented together with the company marmalade, which in turn is providing a further € 50,000.

At the same time, preparations were underway for the spin-off of Citizen Conservation, which was realised with the Citizen Conservation Foundation gmbH (limited liability company) in 2022. At the same time,

the species portfolio was expanded to include further amphibian and fish species and preparations for scaling up to reptiles were pushed ahead. In February 2022, the publisher Galiani Berlin also published a collection of the underlying texts from 48 episodes of our "Creatures Podcast" as a book entitled "Von Okapi, Scharnierschildkröte und Schnilch – ein prekäres Bestiarium", followed by numerous readings and a broad media response on the topic of conservation breeding of endangered species.

All of this led to an extreme workload on the part of our (few) permanent and (many) freelance employees, which was exacerbated by the delays in the reorganisation of the association's staff. I am therefore all the happier that we have managed to create a solid basis just in time with the three new hires in 2021 and 2022, on which we will hopefully be able to further expand our activities in the coming years and continue to successfully implement such beautiful and important projects in the future.

With this in mind, a big thank you to the entire Frogs & Friends team,

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## MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

In 2021, the number of club members remained constant at 13. In the following year, one club member left us and two new ones joined, bringing the total number of members to 14 at the end of 2022.

## STAFF: CHANGE AND GROWTH

In May 2021, Johannes Penner, who holds a doctorate in herpetology, took up his position as Curator of Research & Zoology. In August, Kidan Patanant left us after just over a year, so we had to advertise again. Thanks to the funding for the “Wild at Home” (WaH) project from the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, we were able to create an additional temporary position, with literary scholar Vanessa Dubberke joining the team in December 2021 and biologist Tina Nagorzanski in January 2022.



Above: Johannes Penner,  
left: Vanessa Dubberke,  
below: Tina Nagorzanski

Two major projects came to fruition in the first half of 2021, including funding for the development of the “Wild at Home” wildlife database and the commission from Hanover Adventure Zoo to plan a 250 square metre amphibian house.

Our tried-and-tested exhibition team, led by Björn Encke and consisting of architect Adriaan Klein, designer Camillo Kuschel, digital exhibition media expert Bernd Schultheis, illustrator Jonas Lieberknecht and curator and author Susann Knakowske, came together again in spring 2021 to develop the previous concept. In the course of the project development, our graphic designer Ines Bärwald and Heiko Werning joined us with his professional and literary expertise, and of course all the permanent staff.

Bea Seggering was in charge of the conceptual development of the “Wild at Home” wildlife database and was responsible for getting it ready for application. Together with Björn Encke, she presented “Wild at Home” in the decisive application round in May 2021. Johannes Penner and Vanessa Dubberke hold key positions in the project team, and digital expert Maria Grotenhoff has been supporting the entire process from the very beginning.

The efforts of Heiko Werning and Ulrike Sterblich as a freelance editorial team paid off. The Creatures Podcast initiated in 2020 resulted in the commission of a book with 48 stories in 2021, most of which were written by the two main authors and generated a lot of media attention in 2022. At the same time, Heiko Werning and Björn Encke continued to play a key role in the development of Citizen Conservation, which also underwent a series of structural reorganisations as part of the foundation of the gGmbH in 2022.

## ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS RE-ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

At the general meeting on 9 December 2022, the Executive Board was re-elected as scheduled and confirmed in its existing composition. Mark-Oliver Rödel will remain Chairman of the Board for a further two years, while Saskia Kress and Fabian Leendertz will continue to serve as Deputy Chairmen.

The Frogs & Friends- and CC-Team at the Herpetology Convention 2022: Bea Seggering, Tina Nagorzanski, Björn Encke, Vanessa Dubberke, Mark-Oliver Rödel, Heiko Werning, Johannes Penner (from left to right).



## ENTREPRENEURIAL METAMORPHOSIS

### FROGS & FRIENDS REORGANISES ITS STAFF

From the very beginning, our Frogs & Friends line-up essentially consisted of 1 + 1 + x, i.e. a managing director with one employee and a swarm of project employees around them. As Citizen Conservation grew, this set-up reached its limits. The day-to-day work became so extensive that there was no longer any room for new developments.

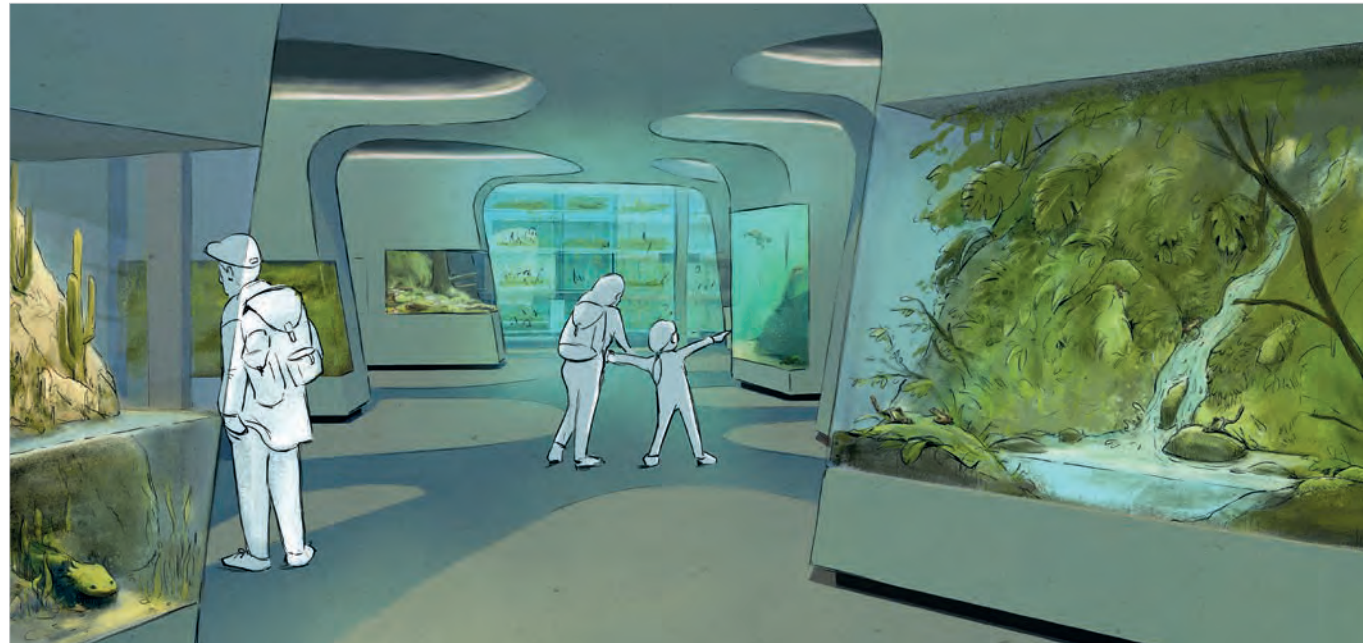
The creation of a curatorial position for Research & Zoology in 2021 was intended to breathe new life into the Africa projects on the one hand and to define internal responsibility for scientific issues relating to citizen conservation on the other. Johannes Penner not only has herpetological expertise and experience of Africa, he has also managed major scientific projects at the University of Freiburg in previous years. So he arrived just in time to join “Wild at Home” as the responsible project manager and take the lead in the feasibility study on the ex situ conservation of the Fire Salamander, which we were commissioned to carry out on behalf of the LBV.

But there is still the rest of the apparatus that has to run. In the editorial area alone, there are two websites plus YouTube and six social media channels that need to be updated almost daily (in two languages). At the same time, the workload for animal and participant management at Citizen Conservation is (fortunately) constantly growing. In these two areas alone, sustainable support and further development on the basis of freelance staff is not feasible in the long term. The creation of reliable and stable personnel structures with clear competences and rules of representation was therefore urgently required. With the appointment of Vanessa Dubberke and Tina Nagorzanski as

new employees for “Organisation and Communication” at the turn of 2021/22, we have taken a decisive first step in this regard.

Vanessa Dubberke previously worked as a literary scholar in Frankfurt/Main at the German Publishers and Booksellers Association, where she was responsible for organising the German Book Prize. Tina Nagorzanski was able to gain initial experience with amphibians and species conservation issues as part of her biology studies in Vienna and has relevant zoo education experience from her work at Schönbrunn Zoo and Magdeburg Zoo. Both as editorial planners and in the animal and participant management of CC, they complement each other and us perfectly and form the backbone of our work.





Project design: 2021 marked the start of planning for the amphibian house for Hanover Adventure Zoo.

## 2021 – STARTING MAJOR PROJECTS

At the peak of the coronavirus pandemic, new prospects opened up for us, particularly with two major projects. Firstly, in the summer, we were commissioned to plan a 250 square metre amphibian house for Hanover Adventure Zoo with estimated construction costs in the exhibition area of one million euros, and secondly, the go-ahead was given for the development of the “Wild at Home” wildlife database, for which we were able to obtain funding of almost € 200,000 from the Federal Ministry of Economics and Climate Action and a further commitment of € 50,000 from the company marmalade.

At the same time, our Curator of Research & Zoology Johannes Penner was busy preparing a comprehensive

feasibility study on the ex situ conservation of the native Fire Salamander against the backdrop of the spreading *Bsal* epidemic. This study was co-financed by the LBV as part of a commission (€ 10,000).

Unfortunately, not much happened with the Africa projects due to Covid-19. It was hardly possible to plan and carry out trips and fieldwork, which meant that no familiarisation could take place on site. Nevertheless, the Goliath Frog project worked with Sedrick Tsekane on publications and applications. The efforts in the Nimba project were postponed and further potential sources of funding for other projects (e.g. rice fields) were identified.

At Citizen Conservation, preparations for the spin-off of the project into its own legal form were in full swing, so that by the end of the year all agreements had been made with the project partners VdZ and DGHT to establish the Citizen Conservation Foundation gGmbH.

The third major project: the feasibility study on the ex situ conservation of the Fire Salamander.



The conceptualisation of the “Wild at Home” wildlife database also began in 2021.



## FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE CONSERVATION OF THE FIRE SALAMANDER

The Fire Salamander is considered to be widespread in Europe, and yet its future currently seems uncertain. The main reason for this is a fungus, *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (abbreviated as *Bsal*), which poses a threat mainly to tailed salamanders and causes Fire Salamander populations to collapse almost completely in a short space of time. *Bsal* originally comes from Asia, but has now been detected in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. A local outbreak in Spain was fortunately limited to a very small area with the help of drastic measures. While previous outbreaks in Germany have mainly occurred in the Eifel and Ruhr regions, two isolated outbreaks of *Bsal* were also discovered in the Steigerwald and Allgäu regions for the first time in 2020.

Before *Bsal* becomes a widespread problem, a species support programme for the Fire Salamander has been set up in Bavaria for this reason. The partners are the State Association for Bird and Nature Conservation (LBV), BUND Naturschutz, the State Association for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (LARS) and the Bavarian State Ministry for the Environment and Consumer Protection. Among other things, a plan is to be developed to determine which specific ex situ measures can help the Fire Salamander in the long term. Frogs & Friends was happy to take on this task and compiled a feasibility study. This sets out in detail what



Typical representatives of the two subspecies of Fire Salamander in Germany: the Spotted Fire Salamander (*Salamandra salamandra salamandra*) and the Striped Fire Salamander (*Salamandra salamandra terrestris*). | Benny Trapp

options are available, which aspects need to be taken into account, which questions are still unanswered and what specific implementation might look like. As a detailed recommendation for action, the study proposes a broad-based, prophylactic conservation breeding programme for the three different, clearly distinguishable genetic lines of the Fire Salamander – as well as subpopulations of different geographical origins that are initially kept separate in order to be able to permanently preserve the broadest possible spectrum of the genetic diversity of the Fire Salamander. The extent to which this can be realised in the coming years will also depend on funding, as it is not only the keeping itself that is financially intensive, but also the management by CC.



The range of different options for keeping Fire Salamanders. From systematised indoor keeping (above) to near-natural keeping with live plants and real wood (below). | Above: Uwe Seidel, below: Jörg Beckmann.



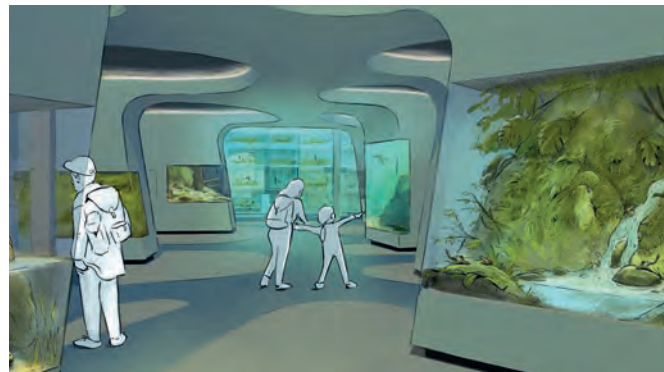
The space requirements can vary depending on the housing system. On the left is a systematised indoor enclosure for adult Fire Salamanders in Euro containers (A), as well as the boxes for young animals (B). This is contrasted by keeping them in terrariums (C), which are systematised here, but would require the same amount of space if kept in a natural environment.



# A HOUSE OF AMPHIBIANS AT HANOVER ADVENTURE ZOO

At the beginning of the year, we were commissioned to think about the topic of amphibians at Hanover Zoo. During the coronavirus pandemic, all of the zoo's restaurants were closed, and one of them was not due to reopen. Instead of a popular pasta restaurant in a half-timbered barn, frogs and newts were to provide even more delight for visitors in future. And so we drummed up our tried and tested exhibition team, consisting of Björn Encke, Adriaan Klein, Camillo Kuschel, Bernd Schultheis and Susann Knakowske, and off we went: we had 250 square metres at our disposal to create a rough concept by the summer. The requirement was that the character of the barn should be preserved as far as possible – and so we initially set about thinking of installations and themes around the numerous wooden pillars until we were slightly exas-

perated and were enriched by the realisation that the wood was concealing a steel pillar construction under a 3.55 m high concrete ceiling. This opened Pandora's box, because suddenly there were significantly more options for the interior design. The "octopus design" put forward by our architect Adriaan Klein not only convinced us, but also the people in charge around zoo director Andreas Casdorff. The next step was to convince the Supervisory Board, which meant that a cost estimate had to be drawn up first. In the summer, the Supervisory Board authorised the commissioning of the multi-million euro Amphibium project. The zoo's ambitious goal was to open in June 2022, which would have required a middling miracle in terms of time in summer 2021, but the work began with the development of the concept, the implementation planning and the final construction. The zoo took on all the basic trades, i.e. the construction and development of the building, including the suspension of the ceiling and floor coating, while we were responsible for the exhibition construction and, of course, the animal facilities and didactics.



View of the exhibition from the main entrance; in the foreground the enclosures for the Lake Patzcuaro Salamander and the Bornean Rock Frog. | Jonas Lieberknecht



In addition to the exciting animal enclosures, there is more to learn about the people who have made a special contribution to a species, such as Fire Salamander breeder Uwe Seidel. | Jonas Lieberknecht



Insights into the variety of forms and abilities of amphibians are intended to arouse the curiosity of visitors, including by immersing them in a Poison Dart Frog habitat that can be entered. | Jonas Lieberknecht



At the back, visitors can look into the glass breeding area. This is where information is first provided about the causes of the threat and the need for conservation breeding measures. | Jonas Lieberknecht



The octopus structure of the new exhibition is particularly recognisable from above. | Adriaan Klein



The native Fire Salamander is shown in the beech forest habitat and information is provided about the acute threat posed by the salamander-eating fungus. | Jonas Lieberknecht





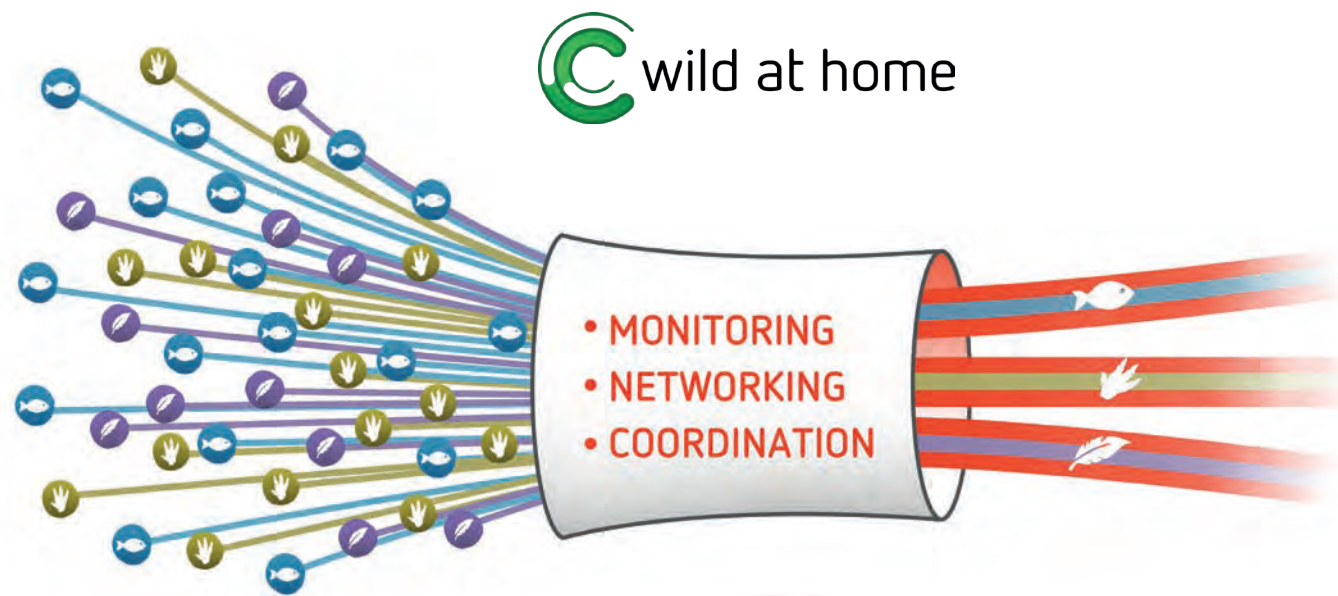
## WILD AT HOME

Although there are rough estimates of how many terrariums, tanks and paludariums there are in German households, it is still a secret which species are at home in them and whether they are regularly bred. Private individuals outside of Citizen Conservation have long been successfully keeping and reproducing endangered species in human care. What often becomes a problem, however, is a lack of transparency and coordination of these stocks in order to use them sustainably for species conservation.

Setting up an online-based animal and participant management system, including an efficient database, is also one of the most important organizational challenges for Citizen Conservation in preparation for further growth. The idea of developing an open wildlife database and making it available to all animal keepers as a livestock and population management tool therefore emerged during an internal workshop in September 2020. An ambitious project that required considerable investment that could not be covered by the normal CC budget. Under the catchy title “Wild at

Home”, we submitted an application to the Innovation Programme for Business Models and Pioneering Solutions (IGP) at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action in April 2021 to receive funding for the development of our wildlife database. Fortunately, we were able to prevail in the multi-stage process and ultimately received the requested funding of € 196,434. The database specialists at the marmalade Group in Magdeburg provided a further € 50,000 in the form of a work quota for the development. A separate working group headed by Johannes Penner and concept developer Bea Seggering is working with marmalade to realise “Wild at Home”.

The aim is to give all wildlife keepers the opportunity to manage their populations online, network with other keepers, document the knowledge and experience they have gained and thus create the basis for greater transparency, sustainability and better coordination of breeding efforts for endangered species in private wildlife keeping as a whole.



A step towards the future of wild animal husbandry.



on the basis of a decision  
by the German Bundestag

The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action is funding “Wild at Home”.

The developer company marmalade GmbH also supports us in creating the online wildlife database.

## CITIZEN CONSERVATION 2021 – SURFING THE WAVES

### PERMANENT STATE OF CRISIS

Hopes of a rapid normalisation of social and business life after the outbreak of the pandemic were dashed by the end of 2020 at the latest with the second major lockdown. Working from home, event bans and contact restrictions continued to apply. The weekly jour fixes and editorial conferences via Zoom had long since become routine.

But right at the beginning of the year, the CC Operational Advisory Board had to meet. At a time when it was no longer entirely clear whether we were still in the second or already in the third coronavirus wave, it was unfortunately inevitable that this most important CC committee would also have to meet digitally. So on 12 February, we got together for an evening “icebreaker” on the screen, which took some getting used to, and the following day for a full-day working session. At least the format allowed almost the entire operational advisory board to come together.

As the year progressed, face-to-face meetings only became possible again with some hesitation. The first joint team meeting did not take place outside until the beginning of June. Lectures and conferences were again cancelled in large numbers, and those that were held were concentrated on the autumn. Air traffic, air freight and international travel regulations were still far from normalised and solid planning was hardly possible. It therefore came as no surprise that the expeditions to import Goliath Frogs and Nimba Toads from West Africa for conservation breeding projects in CC, which had initially been postponed from 2020 to 2021, had to be postponed again. The planned export of amphibians from Ecuador was also not possible in 2021 due to a lack of air freight options, despite several attempts.

The difficult conditions also continued in the personnel situation. Our previous project manager Kidan Patanant left us at short notice on 1 August, making it necessary to fill the position. The advertisement and application process took several months, meaning that the CC office was significantly understaffed for some time until two new employees, Vanessa Dubberke on 1 December 2021 and Tina Nagorzanski on 1 January 2022, joined the team. On 1 May 2021, Dr Johannes Penner took up his new position at Frogs & Friends, who is also working for CC as part of the staff secondments promised by Frogs & Friends.



Dr Johannes Penner joined Frogs & Friends and CC in the middle of the year.



Thanks to Corona, almost fully staffed: Meeting of the CC Operational Advisory Board on 13 February 2021.



Tina Nagorzanski and Vanessa Dubberke joined the team at the turn of the year 2021/22.



## CITIZEN CONSERVATION

### PREPARATIONS FOR THE TRANSITION

One of the Advisory Board's most important tasks for the Project Steering Group (PSG) and CC Office was to initiate preparations for the transition of CC's project status into an independent organisation. The pilot phase of CC ends in 2022 – until then, it was important to establish solid, future-proof structures. The establishment of a non-profit limited liability company (gGmbH) soon emerged as the favoured organizational structure of the project sponsors. Draft articles of association and possible structures were circulated several times between the PSG and project organisers, discussed, refined and agreed in video conferences, until the three project organisers Frogs & Friends, VdZ and DGHT had finally agreed on the final articles of association by the end of the year.

### PILOT PHASE AT CRUISING ALTITUDE

After the foundations for CC were laid in 2018, 2019 was characterised by the establishment of the first stock of "starter species" and development in 2020 was initially slowed down by the pandemic, 2021 was the first year in which CC was fully operational – despite staff shortages. The number of participants continued to rise steadily, the first offspring were added and placed with new owners within the project, and the first animal transfers were also carried out within the project. This meant that the CC office had its hands full with animal and participant management.

Although, as mentioned at the beginning, the expansion of the species portfolio did not proceed as planned in 2021 due to the pandemic, new species were nevertheless added to CC. In terms of amphibians, Ziegler's Crocodile Newt (*Tylotriton ziegleri*), another highly endangered (IUCN status "Vulnerable") tailed newt species from Vietnam, was added to the programme at the end of the year via our partners at Cologne Zoo, and the first young animals from Cologne's captive breeding programme were introduced by two private keepers. Of particular importance is the inclusion of the native Fire Salamander (*Salamandra salamandra*), which will be a focus of CC's work (see p. 14). In addition to captive-bred specimens from Schwerin Zoo, we have received animals with a known location from an official confiscation from the University of Giessen for further care.

After Prof. Thomas Ziegler from Cologne Zoo and Anton Weissenbacher from Schönbrunn Zoo in Vienna agreed to provide specialist support for the first fish species, despite the fact that the CC #Fish group was not yet planned at the time, the Mangarahara Cichlid (*Ptychochromis insolitus*), an endangered species, was added to



The founding of Citizen Conservation gGmbH was also discussed in an online conference.



The project steering group, consisting of the two CC founders Björn Encke and Heiko Werning, Tim Schikora, Director of Schwerin Zoo, and Axel Kwet, DGHT Managing Director, also met online.

the programme at the end of 2020. At Thomas Ziegler's suggestion, two other endangered freshwater fish from Madagascar followed: Loiselle's Ptycho (*Ptychochromis loisellei*) and Madagascar Rainbowfish (*Bedotia madagascariensis*). At the end of 2021, CC was looking after 881 animals in 14 taxa. This represents an almost doubling over the course of the year (1 January 2021: 471 animals).

The number of keepers within CC also continued to develop positively in 2021. At the end of the year, there were 101 keeping facilities: 60 facilities at private keepers, 18 at zoos and animal parks, 5 at other institutional keepers (e.g. private show aquariums) and 18 in five different school zoos. As at 31 December 2020, there were still 54 facilities. This means that, as in the previous year, the number of keepers has almost doubled. Three new VdZ zoos have also been added: Dresden Zoo, Augsburg Zoo and Aquazoo Düsseldorf. The Lemur Leaf Frog, Mallorcan Midwife Toad, Oriental Fire-bellied Toad, Bony-headed Toad, Vietnamese Crocodile Newt and Mangarahara Cichlid have now been successfully bred within CC.



## CITIZEN CONSERVATION

The newcomers: Ziegler's Crocodile Newt and our native Fire Salamanders.

### ANIMAL BALANCE SHEET AS AT 01/11/2021

CC currently publishes its portfolio figures twice a year; they are based on the portfolio reports submitted by participants on 1 March and 1 September. Further placements are taken into account by 1 May and 1 November and then published on our website. The result as at 1 November 2021 was as follows:

Scientific name	Engl. name	Animals total (m/f/u)	Keepers total	Deaths 11/20 – 11/21 (m/f/u)	New offspring 11/20 – 11/21	External arrivals 11/20 – 11/21 (m/f/u)	Goal (animals, keepers)	Status*
<b>Amphibians</b>								
<i>Agalychnis lemur</i>	Lemur Leaf Frog	48 (8/10/30)	10	33 (1/0/32)	29 (0/0/29)	8 (3/2/3)	225, 40	23 %
<i>Alytes muletensis</i>	Mallorcan Midwife Toad	114 (0/0/89)	12	19 (0/0/19)	2 (0/0/2)	58 (0/0/58)	425,53	25 %
<i>Ambystoma dumerilii</i>	Lake Patzcuaro Salamander	107 (33/34/40)	15	74 (6/1/67)	7 (0/0/7)	0 (0/0/0)	225, 40	43 %
<i>Bombina orientalis</i>	Oriental Fire-bellied Toad	105 (9/10/86)	8	0 (0/0/0)	63 (0/0/63)	24 (0/0/24)	225, 60	30 %
<i>Ingerophrynus galeatus</i>	Bony-headed Toad	113 (13/15/85)	9	10 (3/2/4)	75 (0/0/75)	10 (0/0/10)	225, 40	34 %
<i>Minyobates steyermarki</i>	Demonic Poison Frog	0 (0/0/0)	0	5 (0/0/5)	0 (0/0/0)	0 (0/0/0)	110, 20	0 %
<i>Phyllobates terribilis</i>	Golden Poison Frog	13 (0/0/13)	2	8 (1/0/7)	0 (0/0/0)	21 (0/0/21)	225, 70	4 %
<i>Salamandra sal. almanzoris</i>	Almanzor Fire Salamander	31 (10/12/9)	9	5 (2/2/1)	0 (0/0/0)	0 (0/0/0)	185, 30	30 %
<i>Salamandra salamandra</i>	Fire Salamander	92 (0/0/92)	6	0 (0/0/0)	0 (0/0/0)	92 (0/0/92)	**	**
<i>Tylotriton vietnamensis</i>	Vietnamese Crocodile Newt	85 (65/11/9)	16	74 (1/2/71)	25 (0/0/25)	48 (0/0/48)	185, 30	37 %
<i>Tylotriton ziegleri</i>	Ziegler's Crocodile Newt	9 (0/0/9)	2	0 (0/0/0)	0 (0/0/0)	9 (0/0/9)	200,5	5 %
<b>Fish</b>								
<i>Bedotia madagascariensis</i>	Madagascar Rainbowfish	20 (0,0,20)	1	0 (0/0/0)	0 (0/0/0)	20 (0/0/20)	TBD	TBD
<i>Ptychochromis insolitus</i>	Mangarahara Cichlid	116 (0,0,116)	6	0 (0/0/0)	70 (0/0/70)	46 (0/0/46)	192, 16	49 %
<i>Ptychochromis loisellei</i>	Loiselle's Ptycho	28 (0,0,28)	3	8 (0/0/8)	0 (0/0/0)	28 (0/0/28)	160, 16	18 %

m: male, f: female, u: undetermined sex  
TBD: To be defined

\* Status = Mean value of the percentage already achieved of the target number of livestock and the target number of animals.

New at CC: three fish species have been added to the programme in 2021 – Loiselle's Ptycho (left), the Mangarahara Cichlid (centre); there have even been offspring within CC) and the Madagascar Rainbowfish (right).





## CITIZEN CONSERVATION

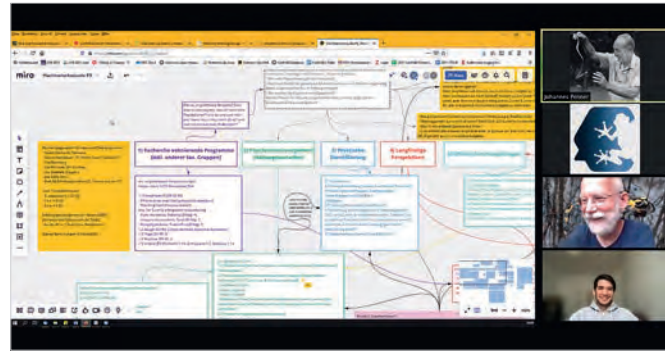


Infected Fire Salamanders are treated for Bsal in such heating cabinets. | Katrin Baumgartner

### NATIONWIDE CONSERVATION BREEDING FOR THE FIRE SALAMANDER

After the salamander-eating fungus *Bsal*, newly discovered in the Netherlands and Belgium in 2013, spread further and further towards the Ruhr region in the following years, wiping out entire populations in the process, it was detected for the first time in Bavaria, over 500 kilometres away, in 2020. As part of an ad hoc campaign, Fire Salamanders that tested positive for *Bsal* were successfully treated at Nuremberg Zoo with the help of Frogs & Friends and Nuremberg Zoo. In spring 2021, CC co-initiated and coordinated a letter from various stakeholders from zoos, science and nature conservation to the responsible government authorities calling for concerted efforts to conserve native Fire Salamanders in view of the rapid spread of the fungus. These efforts were fuelled by further mass extinctions in the Bergisches Land region and in the Ruhr area around the cities of Remscheid and Wuppertal.

CC has been involved in discussions with the relevant stakeholders in the Ruhr area/Bergisches Land region in order to initiate a pilot project for rescue and conservation breeding there. In cooperation with the BUND group, the university and Wuppertal Zoo, it was agreed to set up a room for keeping Fire Salamanders; appropriate quarantine facilities are to be made available at the university and zoo. CC has agreed to



Creating a feasibility study for the conservation of Fire Salamanders sounds complicated? Not for our scientific curator Johannes Penner, who has created a clear planning board for this purpose.



Targeted ex situ populations could become the ark in the Bsal deluge for Fire Salamanders.

include the rescued animals in its conservation breeding programme and to coordinate their keeping and, if necessary, breeding in future.

In Bavaria, Frogs & Friends was commissioned by the LBV to carry out a feasibility study on the conservation breeding of the Fire Salamander, led by Johannes Penner and with the collaboration of CC. The study proposes the introduction of a coordinated conservation breeding programme throughout Bavaria under the coordination of CC (see p. 7).

CC has also taken part in a working group to research the welfare of Fire Salamanders kept in human care. In cooperation with the universities of Bielefeld, Münster, the FU Berlin, the Allwetterzoo Münster and the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, the group aims to investigate which husbandry systems are best suited to long-term husbandry from an animal welfare perspective. In particular, the potential conflict between near-natural and efficient-minimalist husbandry and breeding containers will be analysed. At the same time, Allwetterzoo Münster has started to set up husbandry facilities for Fire Salamanders and for animal welfare studies, which are also to be integrated into the CC conservation breeding network in the future.

## CITIZEN CONSERVATION

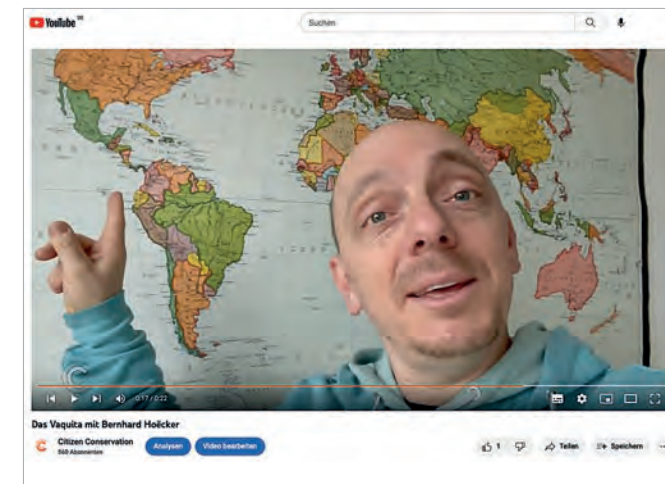
### “PRO EX SITU” CAMPAIGN

The second season of Citizen Conservation’s Creatures Podcast was launched on 17 December 2020. The twelve new episodes were released weekly and once again dealt with the fate of endangered animal species that could or can only be saved through conservation breeding in the usual entertaining, humorous and essayistic way.

The podcasts can be listened to free of charge wherever podcasts are available (e.g. YouTube and Spotify). The Snow Leopard, Anegada Ground Iguana, Przewalski’s Horse, Lake Patzcuaro Salamander, Bavarian Pine Vole, Zhou’s Box Turtle, Golden Lion Tamarin, Vaquita, Fire Salamander, Okapi, Socorro Pigeon and Wangi-Wangi White-eye were presented.



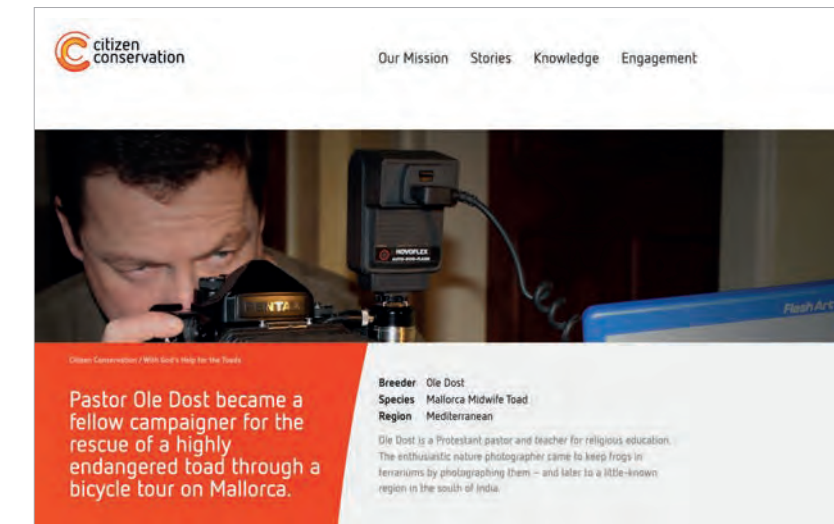
Many familiar faces and voices support us in the 2nd season of the Creatures Podcast.



This time, prominent readers were invited to show support for ex situ species conservation: Reading artist Ahne, pop musician Purple Schulz, writer Kirsten Fuchs, Alphaville singer Marian Gold, writer Kathrin Passig, musician Götz Alsmann, actor Tom Hillenbrand, entertainer Bernhard Hoëcker, journalist and TV producer Friedrich Küppersbusch, actress Bettina Lamprecht, cabaret artist Bernd Giesecking and chansonnier Bodo Wartke.

An agreement was reached with the publisher Galiani Berlin to publish the texts in a book. In addition to the previous 24 episodes, a further 24 episodes were to be written, again by CC authors Heiko Werning, Ulrike Sterblich and Björn Encke. The manuscript was completed on time by November.

In addition, we filled our social media channels several times a week with news about CC or conservation breeding and the biodiversity crisis.



We have published another “pro ex situ” story on our CC homepage. The new page is about pastor and toad breeder Ole Dost.

Some of the celebrities, such as entertainer Bernhard Hoëcker, even announced their podcast episode themselves via video.





Uwe Seidel answered questions in a CC outfit for the "Quarks" programme on the topic of "Are our Fire Salamanders dying out?"

**"SALAMANDER RESCUERS" IN THE MEDIA**

We have published several articles about CC or aspects of the programme in the specialist press, in the DGHT association journal "elaphe", but also in other animal breeding journals such as "Der TagGecko" of the IG Phelsuma, the GAV-Journal of the German Society for Species Conservation Bird Breeding and in the "Mertensiella" book series of the DGHT in the volume "Endangered Newt and Salamander Species - Guidelines for Conservation Breeding". The small special interest magazine "arten|rettung" has dedicated an entire cover story to CC with four detailed articles. CC was mentioned in press releases from the VdZ, the LBV and the DGHT and featured in several local newspapers when animals were admitted to school or local zoos: in the Donaukurier Ingolstadt, in the Wuppertaler Zeitung and in the Westfälische Nachrichten. The WDR TV science programme "Quarks" broadcast a film about the critical situation of the Fire Salamander, in which CC keeper Uwe Seidel was also presented as a "salamander rescuer". To accompany this, we also placed adverts in the specialist magazines "elaphe" and "Reptilia" throughout 2021.

**STILL A LOT TO DO**

Not all goals could be achieved. In addition to the faltering expansion of the species portfolio and the cancelled West Africa expeditions, it has not yet been possible to develop corresponding texts for the website and husbandry recommendations for all species included in CC.

New additions to the website in 2021 include, somewhat belatedly, texts in our "Knowledge" section and the husbandry recommendations for the Mallorcan Midwife Toad, Vietnamese Crocodile Newt and Mangaraha Cichlid.

In addition to the Creatures Podcast, only one new text could be published in our website section "Stories", a portrait of one of our private keepers who is committed to Mallorcan Midwife Toads. Planned tutorial videos on sampling (swabbing) amphibians or other husbandry-related topics have also not yet been realised.

A regular CC newsletter, a new blog to be set up on the website and partnerships with companies that can offer our participants discounts also remained largely undeveloped. To this end, however, talks were held with the company "Six feet to eat", which resulted in a concrete offer and should allow CC participants to purchase discounted food animals in future.

The advertisement features a large globe composed of numerous animal silhouettes in various colors (grey, orange, red). The Citizen Conservation logo and website URL are at the top. A central text box states: "In den letzten 50 Jahren sind zwei von drei Wirbeltieren von der Erde verschwunden." Below the globe, there is a paragraph about species loss and three columns of text for 'ZOOLOGEN', 'TIERHALTER', and 'BÜRGER'. At the bottom, there is a red banner with the slogan "Haltung rettet Arten" and logos for VdZ, Frogs & Friends, and DGHT.

**citizen conservation**  
www.citizen-conservation.org

In den letzten 50 Jahren sind zwei von drei Wirbeltieren von der Erde verschwunden.

Weltenbrand: Zwei Drittel der Tierbestände sind im letzten halben Jahrhundert verschwunden. Wenn das so weitergeht, ist klar: Immer mehr Arten werden endgültig aussterben. Viele sind schon jetzt nur noch zu retten, wenn wir sie in menschlicher Obhut pflegen und stabile Populationen in Zoos und bei anderen Tierhaltern aufbauen. Citizen Conservation bringt die Akteure zusammen, um dieser Mission zu folgen.

**ZOOLOGEN**  
Die koordinierte Erhaltungszucht von Wildtieren ist eine Erfindung der Zoologischen Gärten und wird für viele Arten weltweit praktiziert.

**TIERHALTER**  
Viele kleinere Arten verdanken ihr Überleben engagierten Privathaltern, die sich rechtzeitig um ihre Erforschung und Nachzucht gekümmert haben.

**BÜRGER**  
Jeder kann mitmachen, ob als aktiver Halter oder Unterstützer. Citizen Conservation leitet an, teilt Wissen und macht Bürger zu Artenschützern.

**Haltung rettet Arten**

VdZ FROGS & FRIENDS DGHT

Example of an advert like the ones we place in the specialist magazines "elaphe" and "Reptilia".



## PRESENTATION & ACQUISITION

In 2021, most of the work was still carried out under coronavirus conditions, meaning that face-to-face meetings were the exception rather than the rule, especially in the first half of the year. In the second half of the year, several digital workshops of the Strategic Planning Committee took place as part of the reorganisation of the Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA), in which Björn Encke was involved as a member of the ASA Global Council. On 28/29 October, there was a first personal reunion at the VdZ and Stiftung Artenschutz species conservation working group at Hanover Zoo (Björn Encke); on 30 October, Johannes Penner was invited to Gersfeld by the DGHT snake working group to present West African amphibians and reptiles and discuss initial ideas for snakes at CC; and on 14 December, Johannes Penner and Björn Encke travelled to Nuremberg Zoo for a workshop on Fire Salamanders.

In order to make CC better known, especially in the keeper and zoo scene, we have again given some lectures in 2021; however, due to corona, this part has been more limited than before.

Heiko Werning presented CC virtually at the Zoo Friends of Hellabrunn Zoo in Munich (13 April), physically on 17 September at Allwetterzoo Münster, on 9 October at the DGHT annual conference in Bad Wildungen and on 12 November at the veterinary medicine conference of the AG Amphibian and Reptile Diseases in Hohenroda.

Björn Encke presented CC at a digital lecture at Krefeld Zoo (1 June) and a few days later at the VdZ annual digital conference of zoos on 3–4 June.

Johannes Penner also took part in the conference of the DGHT-AG Anurans in Markttheidenfeld from 5 to 7 November and reported on West African amphibians and reptiles as well as on CC.



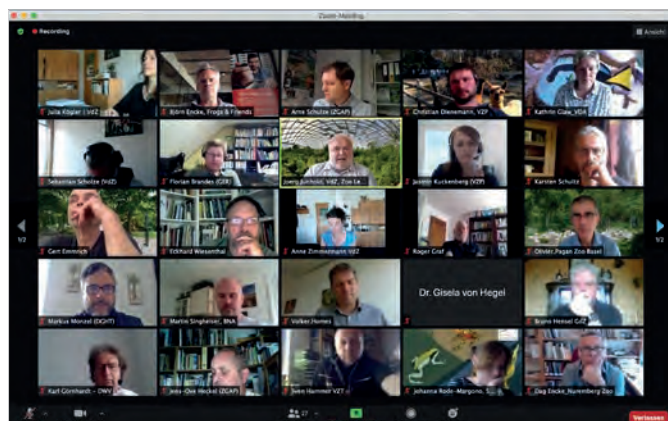
Meeting of the Species Conservation Working Group at Hanover Adventure Zoo



CC was also an important topic at the DGHT annual conference in Bad Wildungen.



Heiko Werning presented CC at the meeting of the AG Amphibian and Reptile Diseases in Hohenroda and accepted a donation from the veterinarians in memory of Frank Mutschmann.



Online conference of the VdZ

## NEWSLETTER F&F | CC

Corona makes silent ... Over the course of the year, we only sent out two newsletters at F&F and only one at the end of the year at CC.

At CC, the German and English newsletters are not sent separately – unlike at F&F – but as one. This is suboptimal and should be relaunched as soon as possible as part of a reorganisation of the communication channels at CC.

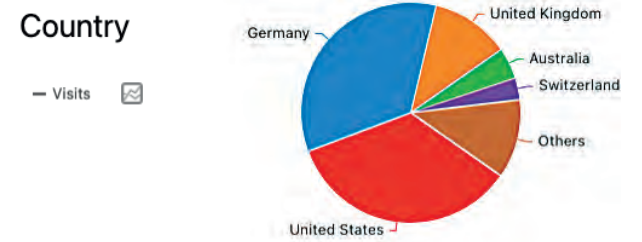


One of the two newsletters sent out for F&F in 2021 – as always with a stylish frog stamp.

## WEBSITE & GOOGLE ADS | F&F

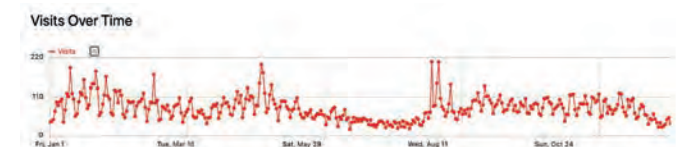
In 2021, the Frogs & Friends website had 28,500 visitors and 79,800 hits. Around 40% of users surf the German site. With 5,400 hits, the Webdoc is the most visited page in German, closely followed by the “World of Amphibians” article on amphibian migration with 4,100 hits. The majority of website visitors (60%) visited the English-language pages to find out more about the topics covered by Frogs & Friends. The article with the most visits in English is an article on the Terrible Poison Dart Frog – also in the “World of Amphibians” section (13,200 hits). The last two pages mentioned were also the entry pages for most visitors, i.e. the pages of the website that a new visitor comes to first and from which he or she hopefully clicks through many more articles eagerly. This is due to the 2021 Google Ads campaigns that lead to these very pages. Thanks to the Google Ad Grants programme, we as a non-profit organisation continue to have access to a free search engine advertising budget of up to \$10,000 per month. In 2021, only about half of this budget was accessed.

The website was visited by users from 58 different countries. With 34% each, most visitors are based in Germany and the USA. The United Kingdom and Australia are in third and fourth place. The fifth largest share of visitors came from Switzerland. Over two thirds of visits were made via the desktop. Around 1,000 users visited the site via a smartphone. The interactive Webdoc is not accessible via smartphone.



The distribution of visitors by country. Most users come from Germany and the United States of America.

Seven news items were published in 2021. The premiere of the film “Tatort Wald – das stille Sterben der Feuersalamander” (“Death in the forest – the silent disappearance of the Fire Salamander”) generated high visitor numbers. The YouTube video and the accompanying news article were shared on social media channels as part of Amphibian Week. Amphibian Week was founded by the Amphibian Survival Alliance and is an online movement in which posts are shared on social media for a week under the hashtag #AmphibianWeek to raise awareness for endangered animals. After the usual weaker July, the number of visitors increased again at the beginning and middle of August, as the advert for the staff position at Frogs & Friends was published as news at this time and then shared on social media channels and by partners such as the VdZ.



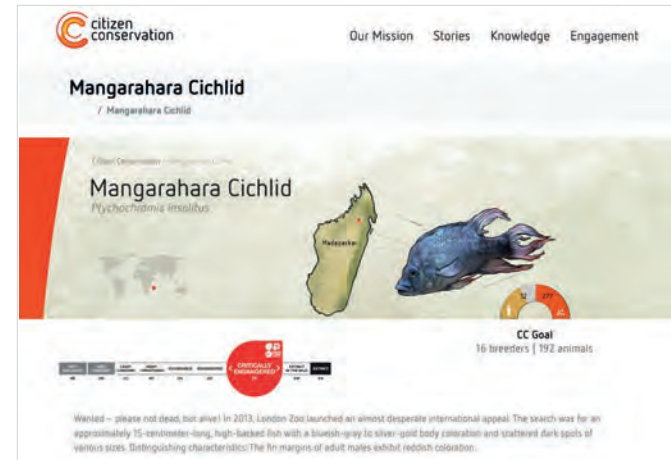
The video on the Fire Salamander published in May and the advert for the staff position at Frogs & Friends in August generated high visitor numbers in 2021.



## WEBSITE | CC

The CC website was accessed 8,500 times in 2021. The share of hits from Germany was the highest at 53%. This was followed by Switzerland and the USA with 4% each and Austria with 2%. The site was accessed particularly often when the podcast episode of Wangi-Wangi White-eye with Bodo Wartke was published and at the time of the advert for the Frogs & Friends staff position.

Six news articles were published on the Citizen Conservation website this year. Three were about the Fire Salamander, in May and November the half-yearly animal survey was announced and information was provided about the online platform "Wild at Home". In addition, the species pages of the Mallorcan Midwife Toad, the Vietnamese Crocodile Newt and the first two fish species at CC, namely the Mangarahara Cichlid and Madagascar Rainbowfish, were published. In keeping with the species page, a "Stories" page was dedicated to the pastor Ole Dost as keeper of the Mallorcan Midwife Toad. Eleven new episodes of the 2nd season of the Creatures Podcast were added to the download area.



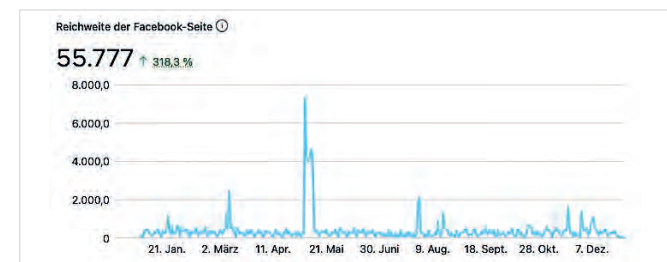
In the programme since 2021 and of course also represented on the website: the Mangarahara Cichlid.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

In 2021, it was once again evident that publishing content relevant to the target group achieves a higher reach and therefore also more page and profile views and ultimately more followers. Time and again, posts shared under popular keywords – known as hashtags – cause big jumps in the reach statistics of our three social media channels Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

## FACEBOOK | F&F

In 2021, 243 posts were published on the Frogs & Friends Facebook page. Reach increased by 540% and totalled 55,800 accounts reached for the year. A paid advert was also placed for the first time this year, reaching 12,800 accounts. An article on the Fire Salamander video was advertised for six days as part of "Amphibian Week" at the beginning of May and was decisive for particularly high reach and page views. A total of 1,200 page views and around 100 new followers were generated this year, which also corresponds to an increase of 500% compared to the previous year.



The paid advert for the Fire Salamander video caused a huge spike in reach in May 2021.

## FACEBOOK | CC

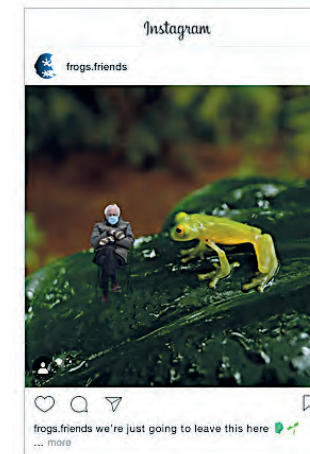
With reports on CC's work, success stories from our keepers, our team's participation in meetings, conferences or readings and global news from the field of species conservation, a colourful mix of 164 posts were published in 2021. The reach of CC's Facebook page continued to grow strongly with 73,200 accounts reached. Posts that come directly from CC keepers and show their own CC animals are always popular. For example, a report on the successful breeding of Bony-headed Toads by our CC keeper Christian Bittner was responsible for a surge in page views. A total of 1,700 page views were achieved and 149 new followers were gained.



The contribution to the Creatures Podcast about the Wangi-Wangi White-eye with music cabaret artist Bodo Wartke had a total reach of 23,000 on Facebook thanks to a paid advert.

## INSTAGRAM | F&F

With 92 posts and 165 stories, the presence on the Frogs & Friends Instagram channel was further increased. A total of 19,000 accounts were reached here, 3,000% more than in 2020. We also recorded a small increase in the number of followers, which totalled 1,350 in 2021. Our profile was viewed 1,100 times. A picture showing Bernie Sanders next to a frog was particularly decisive for a large number of views at the end of January. The rustic appearance of the US politician at Joe Biden's inauguration triggered an internet hype in which the senator was photoshopped into various situations, and Frogs & Friends also took part. The use of the hashtag #AmphibianWeek at the beginning of May also generated a significant increase in accounts reached and profile views.



Frogs & Friends also took part in the viral internet hype of retouching Bernie Sanders in funny situations in 2021. Together with the link to his profile, the post generated 48 profile views, which is 16 times the annual average.

## INSTAGRAM | CC

119 posts were published on Citizen Conservation's Instagram profile in 2021. Also relevant on this channel are the stories that can only be accessed for 24 hours, of which 171 were posted this year. New features are constantly being developed for stories. In 2021, for example, our stories contained photos and videos, references to new posts, direct links to websites, as well as interactive mood barometers and self-created quizzes. The algorithm often rewards the use of new features with higher reach. For example, the publication of the Creatures Podcast episode about the Fire Salamander with Friedrich Küppersbusch also saw a spike on the reach scale. A total of 4,300 accounts were reached in 2021 and our profile was viewed 1,300 times. At the end of the year, we had 610 followers on CC's Instagram account, an increase of 75% compared to the previous year.

## TWITTER | F&F

The Frogs & Friends Twitter channel is still mainly in English. Over 200 tweets were published. In 2021, 204 followers were added, resulting in a total of 1,480 followers. The top tweet in terms of reach was a photo of the Darwin frog on the occasion of Darwin Day, which was tagged with the appropriate hashtag. As this fell on a Friday, we threw Darwin Day and our tried-and-tested weekly "Frog Friday" together and achieved a payout rate of 16,300.

What luck when "Frog Friday" and Darwin Day fall on the same day ... This combination led to a top tweet on the Frogs & Friends Twitter channel in 2021.



## TWITTER | CC

With almost 200 tweets published on Citizen Conservation's Twitter profile, we were able to increase our followers to 155 users in 2021 – that's 44 more than in the previous year. Since English-language tweets are usually better received here than German-language tweets, most tweets are posted in English. However, new episodes of the Creatures Podcast are announced in German, just as German-language tweets from other profiles are shared in German. Images on Twitter also often generate more likes and a better reach. For example, the announcement of the podcast episode about the Bavarian Pine Vole with Kathrin Passig was played 3,170 times in German, while the top tweet was a picture of the aforementioned vole, including an English caption, which was played 3,900 times.



What luck when "Frog Friday" and Darwin Day fall on the same day ... This combination led to a top tweet on the Frogs & Friends Twitter channel in 2021.



## YOUTUBE | F&F

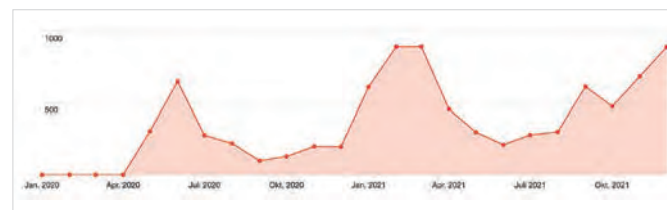
The Frogs & Friends YouTube channel was viewed 11,700 times this year with a total runtime of 352 hours. That is 28% fewer views than in 2020 and a 22% reduction in runtime. The number of subscribers increased (albeit at a decreasing rate) to 273, which is 67 more subscribers than in the previous year. In light of the fact that there was no new film on our channel in the entire reporting year, these figures appear less negative. The high importance of French and Spanish content is also striking this year. The film “Enanos tóxicos en Colombia” about our excursion to Colombia in 2016 (1,485 views with 121 playback hours), which was dubbed into Spanish, accounted for a third of both the running time and the views, while the French version of the film about aquaculture in Benin (no. 4 of the report “Frog fields in Benin”) was in first place (1,923).

## YOUTUBE | CC

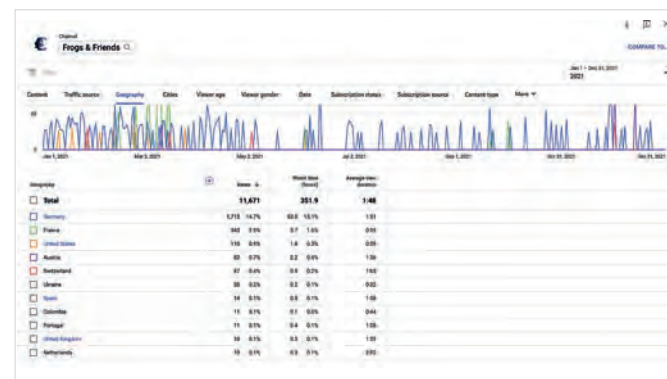
Citizen Conservation’s YouTube channel was viewed 11,104 times this year. This is 19% fewer views than in 2020, but only around half as many videos were published compared to the previous year. Eleven new episodes of the Creatures Podcast were uploaded to YouTube in 2021. In addition, three short moderation videos were created by the artists who recorded the episodes themselves. This was followed in March by a trailer for the video “Death in the forest – the silent disappearance of the Fire Salamander”, which was released in German and English in May. The German-language version is the most successful video on the channel this year with 1,650 views and 160 playback hours. The total playback time of the videos for 2021 amounts to 543 hours. We were able to gain 97 people as subscribers, who played the content from their mobile phones or computers in roughly equal numbers.

## PODIGEE | CC

The Creatures Podcast is also published on the podcast host “Podigee”, making the episodes available on every major streaming service. In 2021, 6,620 downloads and streams were counted. Since its release in 2020, the Creatures Podcast has been downloaded or streamed 8,920 times. The most listened to episode to date is “Episode 1 – Der Waldrapp” with Wladimir Kaminer. The most frequently used app for listening to the podcast is Spotify with a total of 5,380 streams, followed by Google Podcasts with 430 streams. As on YouTube, you can subscribe to the podcast on Spotify and receive notifications when new episodes are released.



The development of downloads and streams of the Creatures Podcast via Podigee since its release in April 2020.



F&F goes around the world: the breakdown of our viewers by country.

## PRESS

The Fire Salamander was a frequent topic this year. For example, an article on the LBV website mentioned Frogs & Friends and Citizen Conservation as partners for the “Fire Salamander” species conservation project. The Fire Salamander was also featured on television. The TV programme “Quarks” talked about the endangered Fire Salamander and accompanied CC keeper Uwe Seidel as he raised the animals. Citizen Conservation was mentioned in various association magazines. The magazine of the Zoo Wasserstern in Ingolstadt reported on the adoption of the Crocodile Newts and Mangarahara Cichlids from CC. The GAV (Gesellschaft für artnerhaltende Vogelzucht/Society for Species-Conserving Bird Breeding) spoke to Heiko Werning about the possibilities of utilising projects such as CC for birds, and “arten|rettung”, the magazine for zoos and species conservation, also reported on CC on 23 pages. In its magazine, the VdZ cites co-operation with CC as a measure to protect biodiversity. The cooperation between CC and the Allwetterzoo Münster also appeared more frequently in the media.





# FROM PASTA RESTAURANT TO HOUSE OF AMPHIBIANS

The beginning of a long journey. Bernd Schultheis and Adriaan Klein during the first visit to Hanover Adventure Zoo in February 2021. In future, frogs and salamanders will be on display in this room in the style of a half-timbered barn. Imagination is required here.



**17**  
CC participant Christian Bittner will report on his breeding successes with the Bony-headed Toad at the DGHT annual conference on 9 October 2021 in Bad Wildungen.

**17**  
A photograph of a man presenting at a conference.

**16**  
"Keep them safe" – CC is also prominently highlighted in the report of the DGHT Executive Board at the annual conference in Bad Wildungen on 8 October 2021.

**16**  
A photograph of a conference presentation.

**15**  
Something always remains – interesting insights from the Bestiary photo shoot at Zoo Berlin. (It says: "Please always leave some faeces!!! (New poo place)")

**15**  
A photograph of a chalkboard with the text: "Bitte immer etwas Kot da lassen!!! (Neuer Kotplatz)"

**14**  
Selfie with okapi at the photo shoot for the press photo for the Bestiary book in the okapi enclosure at Zoo Berlin.

**14**  
A photograph of a man with an okapi in the background.

**13**  
Verhalten bei Tierproblem  
Ruhe bewahren!

**13**  
Notepad at Schwerin Zoo: The most important principle at CC tool! (It says: "Behaviour in case of an animal problem – keep calm!")

**12**  
Meeting of the CC project steering group in the penguin room at Schwerin Zoo.

**12**  
A photograph of a penguin with a sign that says "PINGVIN ZIMMER".

**1**  
The pandemic promoted new formats: Zoom workshop convened by CC on questions of genetics in conservation breeding on 29 January 2021.

**1**  
A photograph of a Zoom meeting grid.

**2**  
Modern technology in the style of old masters. Managing Director Björn on the Zoom screen.

**2**  
A photograph of a man on a Zoom call.

**3**  
Ghostly presidents, a fascinating variety of image backgrounds and intense debates about the spin-off of CC in the first half of 2021.

**3**  
A photograph of a Zoom meeting grid.

**4**  
Party time! Virtual icebreaker evening for the advisory board meeting on 12/02/2021.

**4**  
A photograph of a Zoom meeting grid.

**5**  
Year 8 school project – sketch for the construction of an amphibian rescue helicopter at a grammar school in Berlin-Pankow.

**5**  
A photograph of a hand-drawn sketch of a helicopter.

**6**  
Workshop with the programmers from the marmalade Group at Magdeburg Zoo to implement the "Wild at Home" population management platform.

**6**  
A photograph of a workshop meeting.

**7**  
WaH-Concepter Bea Seggering reflecting on the living example at Magdeburg Zoo: How do you manage wild animals in human care?

**7**  
A photograph of a woman standing outdoors.

**8**  
Final round of "Wild at Home" at Magdeburg Zoo on 15 June 2021.

**8**  
A photograph of a group of people outdoors.

**9**  
Björn Encke at his old place of work at Magdeburg Zoo with "his" tree, because a man is supposed to father two children, plant a tree and found a species conservation project.

**9**  
A photograph of a man standing next to a tree.

**10**  
The future Federal Environment Minister Steffi Lemke (B90/Greens) enquires about CC at a hearing in the German Bundestag's Environment Committee in June 2021.

**10**  
A photograph of a woman speaking.

**11**  
Cautious groping out of lockdown: the first proper CC team meeting since autumn 2020 took place outdoors in Berlin's Schleusenkrug.

**11**  
A photograph of a group of people outdoors at night.



## 2022 – SEAMLESSLY FROM THE PANDEMIC TO WAR AND THE TURN OF AN ERA

Putin launched his campaign against Ukraine on 24 February 2022. Most of the local experts agreed that it would only be a matter of days, a few weeks at most, before Kiev would fall and Ukraine would be firmly in Russian hands. This assessment was wrong, as Ukraine, which had been preparing for this attack since the Russian occupation and annexation of Crimea in 2014, was determined to defend its country. The longer the resistance lasted, the greater the initially hesitant support from the West became, and so we are witnessing an increasingly archaic war on European soil, and the Chancellor's words about the turn of an era are rapidly taking shape. The world is reshaping itself, supply chains are breaking in two, inflation is rising and the economy is paralysed. Nobody knows how it will end, but uncertainty is growing in a world already unsettled by the pandemic. We felt the consequences immediately in the case of the amphibian at Hanover Adventure Zoo: extended delivery times and rising prices have blurred planning horizons, meaning that completion is likely to be delayed by a whole year in the end.

At the same time, everyone seems to have become so accustomed to working under pandemic conditions that a return to the familiar working day with fixed office hours now seems unthinkable. On the one hand, the possibility of online meetings brings enormous advantages, especially when it comes to regular consultations in well-established teams with fixed roles; on the other hand, the eternal two-dimensionality of working together also harbours risks in other areas, some of which we haven't even realised yet. Particularly in new teams like ours, it is therefore important to pay special attention to the effects of this new working reality. With the density of work that we have all had to cope with this year – two extremely demanding major projects (Hanover and "Wild at Home") with many very different people involved, on top of what feels like a mountain of everyday tasks – we need an indispensable amount of coffee breaks together in order to achieve success together in the end.

Of course, every project has phases of tunnelling and pushing through, but these should only be very limited in time, otherwise there is a risk of conflicts and mistakes. We were spared both in 2022. We can chalk this up to the luck of the brave. However, we should not challenge this luck too often.



You can also be funny digitally.



The lunch break experience

## AFRICA

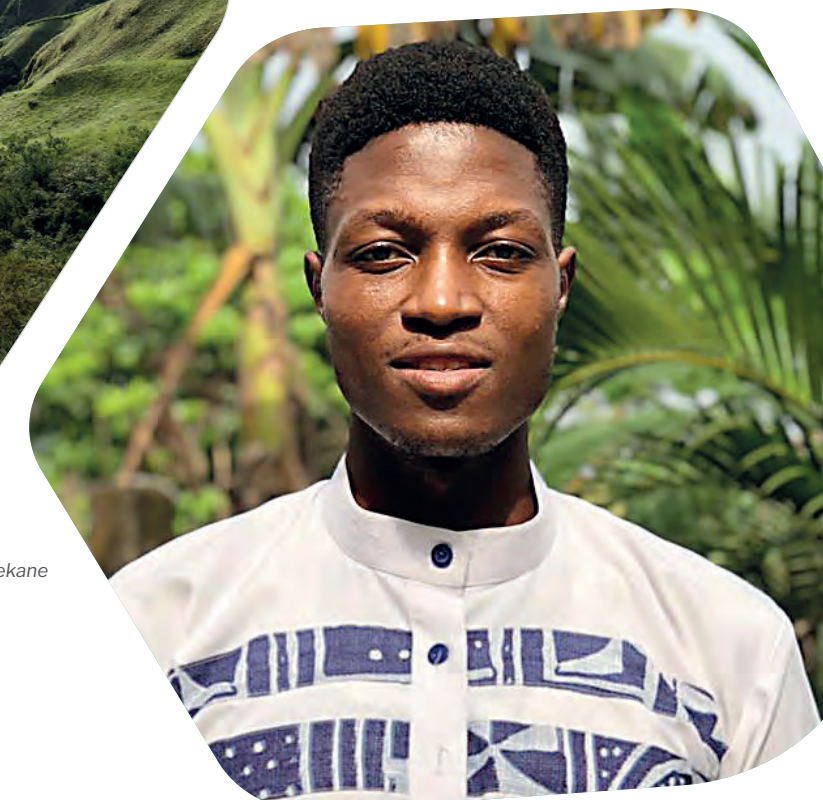
Unfortunately, the Africa projects did not go as planned in 2022 either. The project to establish a population of Nimba Toads in human care under the umbrella of CC has picked up speed again, but unfortunately previous attempts to contact the authorities in Guinea have gone unanswered. Nevertheless, some successful talks have been held and further supporters have been recruited in Guinea. The political and economic situation in Guinea and the rest of the world currently makes medium-term planning very difficult. However, we are still confident that we will one day be able to safeguard this unique and extremely endangered species with a reserve population. In Cameroon, the monitoring of the Goliath Frog by Sedrick Tsekane is continuing, and new study areas have been opened up and further exciting observations have been made. Initial indications suggest that, in addition to nest building, the adults are also involved in brood care.



Intercontinental dialogue



The situation in the Nimba Mountains is becoming increasingly threatening.



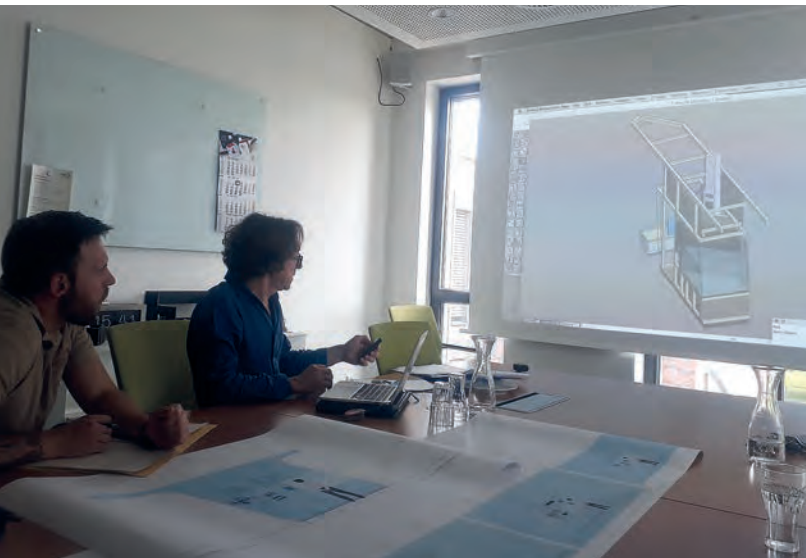
Our man in Cameroon: Sedrick Tsekane



# AMPHIBIUM AT HANOVER ADVENTURE ZOO

Anyone who goes travelling has stories to tell – this applies not only to the rail connections between Berlin and Hanover, but to the entire project. To anticipate this: Most of the experiences were positive, some surprising, some arduous – but anything else would also be surprising. In spring 2022, we were finished with the basic implementation planning, but the subsequent tendering process took much longer than planned, exacerbated by the consequences of the war in Ukraine. Among other things, our architect Adriaan Klein redesigned all the panel dimensions of the exhibition walls in response to the Russian sanctions in order to provide an option for the multiplex birch panels we wanted, most of which come from Russia and have slightly different basic dimensions than other

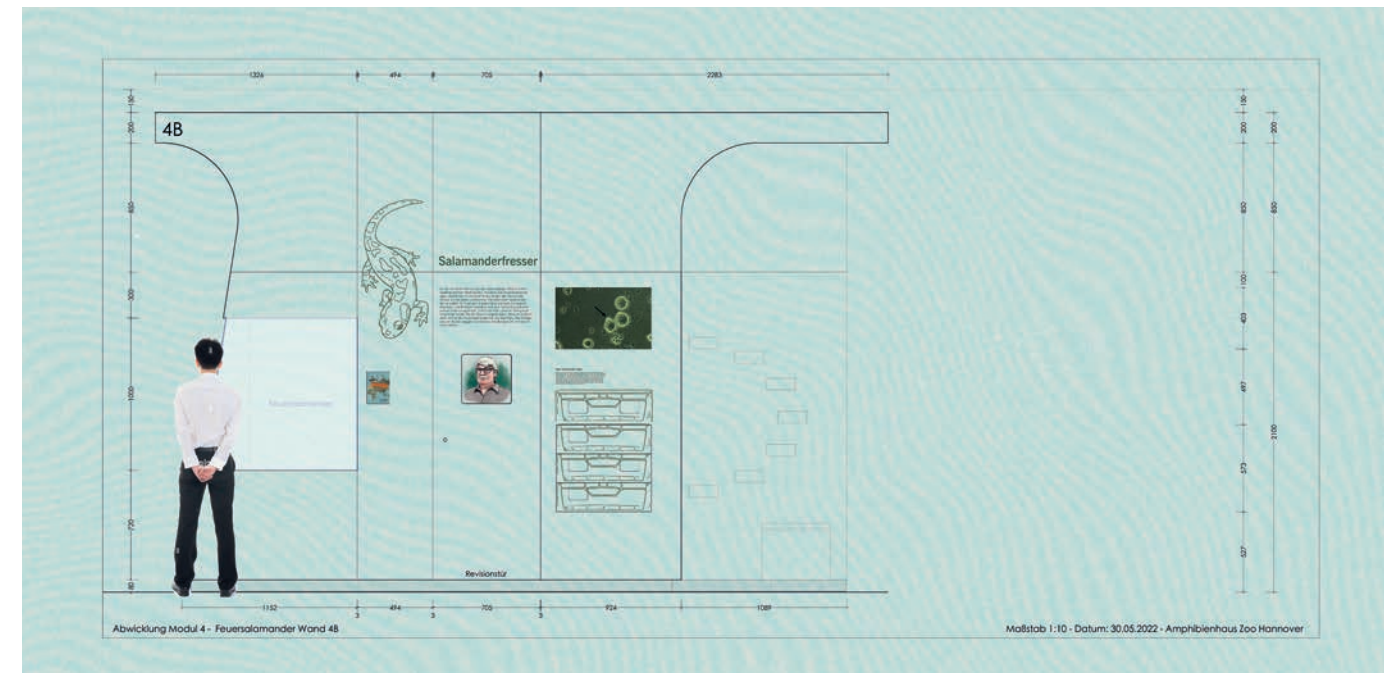
multiplex panels ... In the end, however, neither the carpentry work nor the terrarium construction proved to be a real challenge, but the electrical, ventilation and water technology issues, for which no suppliers could be found for months and which easily pushed the entire construction process back by a further six months. The planning of the exhibition didactics, on the other hand, went smoothly, so that the majority of the planned elements were in production over the course of the year. After a lengthy search for a partner for the interior design of the installations, this was also successful, so that we were able to further detail our cardboard and modelling clay models. All in all, the delays naturally led to considerable additional work in some cases, simply because we had to deal with the same, sometimes rather complicated issues in detail every few months or simply because we had “ordered” animals from some CC keepers for the exhibition, but then had to pass them on because the schedule had been postponed. However, if it ends up being as good as we imagined this house to be, then it will have been worth every effort.



From paper to 3D model. Architect Adriaan Klein discusses the spaces behind the scenes of the individual modules with zoological animal keeper Revin Meyer. Almost every centimetre counts here to make things easier for the animal care staff.



What image should visitors see in the end? The best way to work on the details of the layout design is with cardboard and/or modelling clay. Here is the (technical) 1:10 cardboard model and the (creative) 1:20 modelling clay model of the Titicaca tank.



The exact position of fonts, monitors and flaps or drawers must be technically feasible, but above all must work for visitors in the end. Here is the wall development for the Fire Salamander module.

Ready in the box. The Fire Salamander models, all meticulously made and painted by hand by Uwe Seidel, are waiting to be installed in the exhibition. Fortunately, they don't need any food.



Research is done by people. You don't have to be a professor to make a relevant contribution to species research, as the example of Uwe Seidel shows. Over many decades, the trained dental technician has made a name for himself as an expert on Fire Salamanders.



An empty room. In autumn, the construction site is prepared to such an extent that the fixtures can gradually be installed. Firstly, electricity and water pipes have to be installed on the ceiling.





## WILD AT HOME

2022 saw the start of the intensive development phase of “Wild at Home”, our wildlife database, which is also intended as an animal management tool and networking platform for animal keepers and species conservationists. The internal F&F team was strengthened right at the start of the year with the addition of new colleague Vanessa Dubberke, who complements the existing working group led by Johannes Penner and Bea Seggering. In close collaboration with the IT agency marmalade, work initially continued on the MVP (minimum viable product) so that a first digital focus group test – out of five planned in total – could take place in January and February 2022. The first features were tested and found to be good. Private and institutional animal keepers from schools and zoological institutions took part. The platform was presented in an introductory group event via Zoom and then tested in detail in individual meetings with the participants to see what is already working well and where we need to start or think further.

Another focus group test took place in September as part of the DGHT annual conference in Berlin, where conference participants were able to complete a questionnaire on the topic of “Community building and communication at ‘Wild at Home’” – either digitally via QR code or as a printed version. This focus group test took place before work was carried out on the community area in order to obtain the opinions and wishes of potential “Wild at Home” users, which proved to be very helpful in developing the platform’s communication channels. Overall, we attach great importance to incorporating feedback and ideas from our focus group tests directly into our development process, where feasible, in order to take into account the needs of those who will ideally work with “Wild at Home” on a regular basis.

## MORE SECURITY WITH CRIMINAL ENERGY

An important concern of the focus group test participants was the overarching topic of “data security” – both in terms of the loss of entered data and the aspect of data protection with regard to the protection of privacy and data processing. This topic was already on our agenda, which is why the first “criminal meeting” of the “Wild at Home” team and friends took place in June, in which we pooled all our criminal energy and considered what scenarios there are to consider with regard to data misuse and loss. It quickly became clear that the challenge here is certainly to manage the balancing act between security on the one hand and low entry barriers on the other – a topic that will continue to be with us.

## NUI – NUMEROUS UNDISTINGUISHABLE INDIVIDUALS

Unfortunately, the development of “Wild at Home” also came to a standstill in 2022. First and foremost, this was due to the complexity of “Wild at Home”, which we were partly aware of from the outset, but which materialised once again in very practical problem cases during the development phase. One example: While the initial plan for “Wild at Home” was to create and manage one data set per individual based on our participant management via Excel lists, this presented us with the difficulty of how to manage animals that live in swarm-like groups and are indistinguishable from one another when it came to scaling up to other animal classes – we started with amphibians, as with Citizen Conservation. You wouldn’t want to manage 100 Mangarahara Cichlids that look the same in 100 individual data sets, but rather as a group in one data set. The solution: a kind of generic form that enables system-specific requirements to be addressed, for example biological distinctions such as viviparous or oviparous, but also allows animals to be split up and managed either as individuals or as NUI (groups of “numerous undistinguishable individuals”).

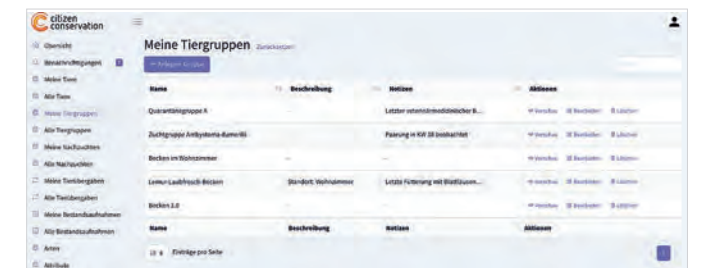
## ON TRACK WITH YOUTRACK

One challenge in the collaboration with the IT agency was finding a suitable communication format to support joint work and make it more efficient. After some trial and error, everyone was able to agree on the project management tool YouTrack, which can be used to create so-called tickets. We record user stories and requirements in these tickets, which are then translated into technical terms and implemented by marmalade.

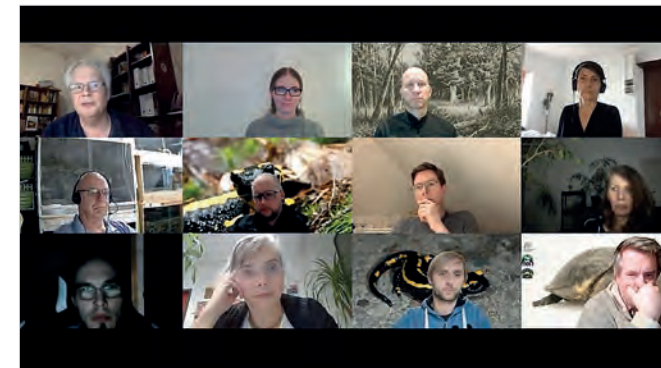
Particularly important in all of this: a close dialogue with the programmers so that everyone involved has the same vision of what the project should be about, without losing sight of all the pitfalls of the details. After initial difficulties, which are common in many projects when different ways of working come together, this has worked better and better. We can therefore look forward positively to the planned launch of the beta version of “Wild at Home” in August 2023.



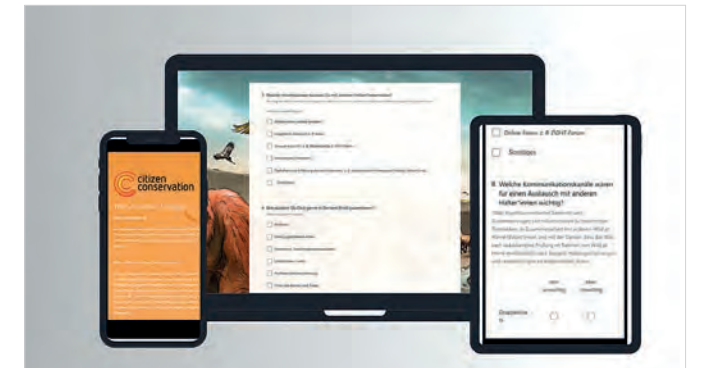
The overview of a CC species manager of their own animals in the animal list – because users can be both animal keepers and species managers.



Animals can be managed in husbandry groups, breeding groups, feeding groups and more via the “My animal groups” menu item.



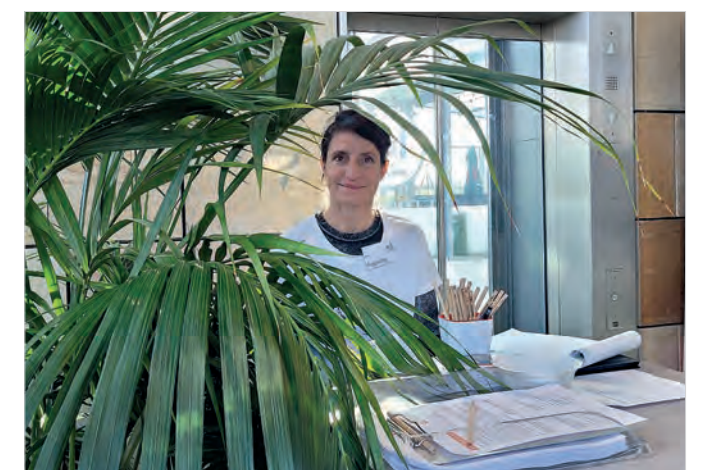
The first focus group test for the MVP of “Wild at Home” took place via Zoom. This had the advantage that the platform could be demonstrated live and tested together with the participants.



The second focus group test could be completed digitally via QR code or with the team on site during the DGHT conference.



This is what the dashboard for users of “Wild at Home” looked like at the beginning: with an overview of the species held and tasks to be processed.



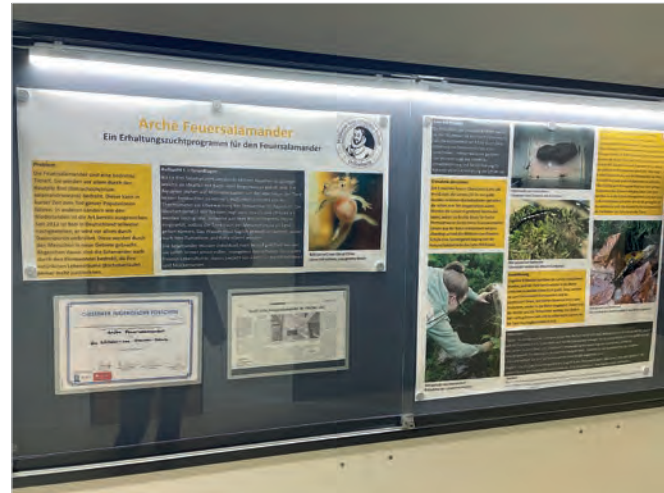
Colleague Bea Seggering in action: At the DGHT conference, numerous participants were asked about the “community area community area” at “Wild at Home”.



## FIRE SALAMANDER

The feasibility study on the ex situ conservation of the Fire Salamander, which was presented in the 2021 annual report, was successfully completed in 2022. Unfortunately, an initial meeting with representatives of various authorities from Bavaria was unsuccessful. Unfortunately, they could not be convinced to provide the necessary funds for the initial phase of such an ex situ programme, which we believe is urgently needed.

Nevertheless, we were able to further expand the network of ex situ enclosures for Fire Salamanders. The Wilhelm-von-Oranien-School in Dillenburg has had a very nice, small vivarium for years, which is run by a dedicated team of pupils and teachers led by Timo Jung. Fire Salamanders are also kept here. In addition, the school, which cooperates with the University of Giessen, among others, has permission to take Fire Salamander larvae from the surrounding area. These are reared by the pupils and released back into the original location after successful metamorphosis. In this way, the pupils can gain practical experience in rearing and keeping them and support the population on their doorstep. In order to expand this ark for the Fire Salamander and, in an emergency, should the *Bsal* fungus appear in the region one day, to have more animals already in captivity as a backup population, outdoor terrariums are to be set up on the school grounds. Frogs & Friends, together with the Wilhelm-von-Oranien-School, was successful in obtaining financial support for this from the HIT Environmental Foundation. The funding will also be used to finance display cases in the school so that the school can continue to regularly recruit young people for this important project.



Showcase for the "Salamander Ark" at the Wilhelm-von-Oranien-School in Dillenburg.



We acquired funds from the HIT Foundation to build new outdoor terrariums.



We have already set our sights on the next potential victim of the *Bsal* crisis: The Alpine Salamander is to be included in future projects.

## PRESENTATIONS & ACQUISITION

### HOME GAME: DGHT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

In 2019, the DGHT had already planned to hold its multi-day annual conference, which is organised at a different location each year, in Berlin in 2022. To this end, it had asked Frogs & Friends to co-host the event in the capital. We gladly accepted this invitation, not least of course to showcase the joint conservation breeding initiative at the most important event organised by our project partner and now also co-partner for Citizen Conservation.

CC was therefore prominently represented at the conference, which took place from 28 September to 2 October at the Alice Rooftop & Garden in Berlin-Charlottenburg on Savignyplatz, with its own stand, programme block and a focus group test on "Wild at Home" (see p. 43). But the programme was also "Frogs & Friends"-heavy beyond that.

Our Chairman Mark-Oliver Rödel had the honour of giving the major evening lecture on his latest research activities in Ecuador on Thursday, which was designated as Science Day, Björn Encke presented our major "Amphibium" project at Hanover Zoo to the specialist public, and Johannes Penner reported on the feasibility study we had prepared on the ex situ conservation breeding of the Fire Salamander.



In dialogue: We had a permanent presence at the DGHT annual conference with our team and a small stand of our own.

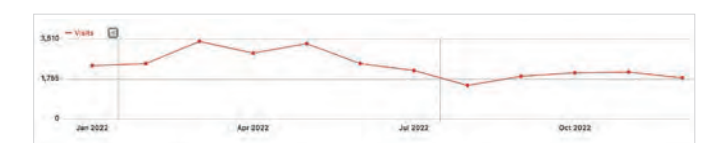
## NEWSLETTER

Two newsletters were sent out for Frogs & Friends in 2022: in June and December. At 120, the number of subscribers was on a par with the previous year.

### WEBSITE & GOOGLE ADS

The Frogs & Friends website recorded 28,172 visits and 84,785 page views. This roughly corresponds to the previous year's figures. Four news articles were published. In addition to the new season of the Creatures Podcast and the "Prekäres Bestiarium" ("Precarious Bestiary"), these were about the film "Willi und die Wunderkröte" ("Willi and the Wonder Toad") the assessment of reptiles for the Red List and the two new employees. In addition, the mobile game for the film "Willi und die Wunderkröte" was presented on the "Playground" page. Almost two thirds of the website is visited by English-speaking users. The most popular page in English is the "World of Amphibians" article on the Golden Poison Frog, while the Webdoc is the most popular page in German. This year, just over half of the free budget was spent on Google Ads. The sites that were visited the most were those that were advertised via the Google Ad Grants programme. The adverts generated almost 30,000 clicks in 2022.

More than 70% of users access the website from a mobile device. However, the Webdoc and the web reports cannot be played on a smartphone. More page views were registered from March to May than during the rest of the year. This is partly due to three news articles that were published in these months, and partly because Frogs & Friends took part in "Amphibian Week" on all social media channels, linking to articles on the Frogs & Friends website.



The monthly visitor figures show that the news articles published between March and May have aroused particular interest.



## SOCIAL MEDIA

### FACEBOOK

In 2022, 237 posts were published on the Frogs & Friends Facebook page. The reach of our channel increased slightly to 57,400. We were only able to generate a few new followers, with 4,600 at the end of 2022. There was a significant increase of 130% in page views, which totalled 2,640. The post that achieved the greatest reach was our “Frog Friday” post as a statement on the war in Ukraine. It achieved a reach of 32,100, which was 15,540% above the average for our Facebook posts. The post was shared 127 times and also achieved an above-average number of 1,100 reactions. Our followers also liked the other posts in the “Frog Friday” section, where we post a frog picture with a suitable saying every Friday. We also generated more likes than usual with a review of the advisory board meeting in May and a preview of the Frogs & Friends exhibition in Hanover. Most followers access the Facebook channel from Germany and the USA (18% each). We will therefore continue to be bilingual here.

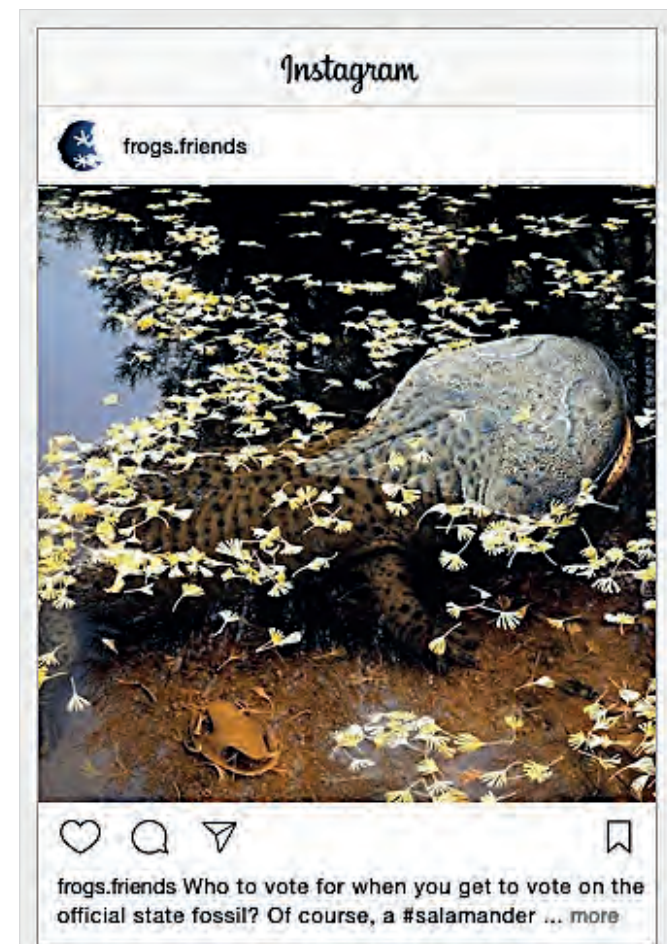


At the end of February, pictures in the national colours blue and yellow were frequently posted as a sign of solidarity with Ukraine. Frogs & Friends also took part with this frog.

### INSTAGRAM

We have seen a decline in reach on the Frogs & Friends Instagram channel. This fell by almost 50% to around 10,000. We were also unable to increase the number of profile views. In contrast, the number of followers rose by around 100 to 1,444. 215 posts and 262 stories were published. Posts from conferences, workshops or similar events attended by employees of the organisation did not perform as well here as on the Citizen Conservation channels.

This year, mainly curated content was posted on the Frogs & Friends channels, i.e. studies or news articles on the topic of amphibians that were published close to the time of posting. This works even better on Facebook, as links can be shared here. On Instagram, this is not possible or only possible in the stories, where the links are rarely clicked on. The posts are therefore limited to brief information that is difficult to research further. It could be that this strategy no longer offers enough added value for Instagram users.



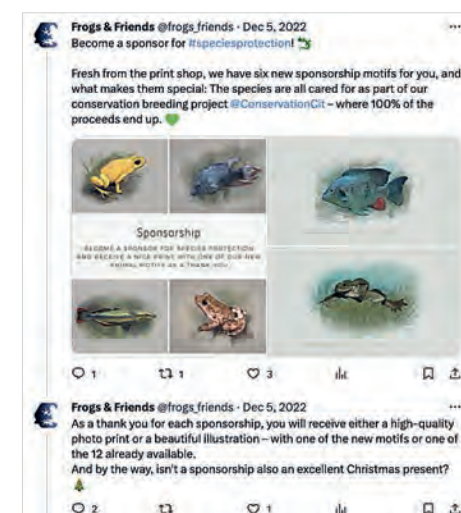
This post about the election for the state fossil of the Australian state of Victoria achieved the highest reach.

### TWITTER

With almost 1,600 followers, we were able to further increase the number of followers. We posted 306 tweets, which achieved a total reach of 128,000 impressions. The tweet that was seen most often was the report on a new type of frog that looks like it has been dipped in chocolate and also has a nose like a tapir (9,771 impressions). The tweets under the heading “Frog Friday” are consistently popular. A number of posts with a high reach were also generated as part of the “Frog Culture” summer special. In July and August, photos and stories of Spanish lucky frog statues, Italian fountains showing drunken frogs and more were liked and shared. The cultural summer highlight was the most popular of all channels on Twitter.



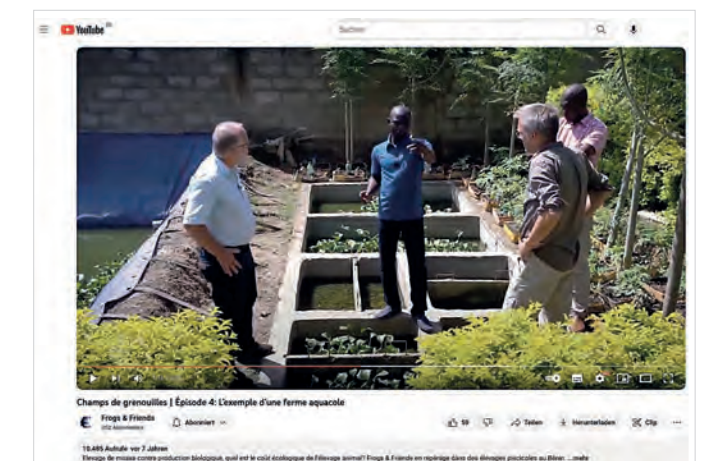
The fountain was built with the money that an Italian teacher won by imitating frogs in a contest. We shared these and other (true) stories during the #frogculture summer.



We also regularly advertise our sponsorships on social media.

### YOUTUBE

The Frogs & Friends YouTube channel has 120 videos in German, English, French and Spanish. No videos were added in 2022, but the number of subscribers rose to 317. Video views fell to 10,900 and the playback time was only 256 hours this year. The French-language video on aquaculture in Benin was again the most viewed. Most viewers find the videos via the YouTube search. Two other popular videos are a contribution on the Glass Frog and a German-language video on the frog fields in Benin.



The most popular video on our YouTube channel every year: the French-language edition about aquaculture in Benin.



# CITIZEN CONSERVATION 2022 – PILOT ON APPROACH

## POSITIONING FOR THE FUTURE

In 2022, the strategic level was characterised by the establishment of the Citizen Conservation Foundation, which was founded at the beginning of the year as a non-profit limited liability company (gGmbH). The three shareholders of CC are the former project sponsors Frogs & Friends, VdZ and DGHT, who each hold 37.5% (F&F, VdZ) and 25% (DGHT) of the shares in accordance with their financial and personnel commitment. The shareholders will initially appoint seven members to the Supervisory Board. In future, it will be possible to include representatives of other substantial supporters with a commitment of € 25,000/a or more. Until the first Supervisory Board meeting on 22 January 2023, the Supervisory Board was composed of the following persons, most of whom were previously members of the Operational Advisory Board Mark-Oliver Rödel and Saskia Kress for F&F, Tim Schikora and Stephan Hering-Hagenbeck for the VdZ, Markus Monzel and Marco Schulz for the DGHT and Gert Emmrich for the DTG.

The Management Board of CC will manage the operational business, while the Managing Director will be appointed by F&F for the first five years. Björn Encke was appointed for this purpose. CC's previous Operational Advisory Board, which successfully guided the project through the pilot phase, was dissolved at its final meeting on 13 May 2022 at F&F's premises in order to make way for the new organizational structure. In future, CC will be supported by a Scientific Advisory Board, which will deal with fundamental strategic objectives in an advisory capacity or provide expert advice in the form of advisory boards for individual animal groups.



On 29 September, Mark-Oliver Rödel, DGHT President Markus Monzel and DGHT Treasurer Marco Schulz sign the shareholder agreement of the Citizen Conservation Foundation gGmbH on the fringes of the DGHT annual conference.

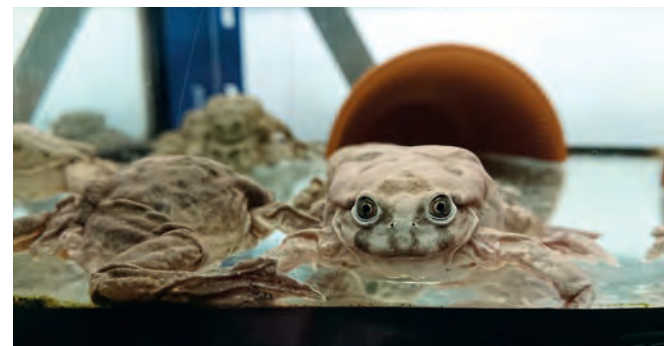
## NEW ANIMALS – NEW PEOPLE

CC's species portfolio was only slightly expanded in 2022: Anderson's Salamander (*Ambystoma andersoni*), the Titicaca Water Frog (*Telmatobius culeus*) and the Nosy Be Cichlid (*Ptychochromis oligacanthus*) were newly added. The long-planned exports of animals from West Africa and Ecuador could not be realised in 2022 for various reasons.

The number of owners also rose encouragingly in the course of 2022. While there were 101 holders at the end of 2021, the number rose to 165 holders within a year (as at 19 January 2023) – an increase of almost two thirds. At the same time, the number of keepers (i.e. individuals or institutions) totaled 104. 56% of the keepers were private individuals, 18% were zoos, 15% were schools and 11% were other institutions.



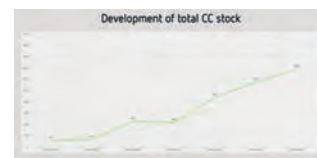
New species at CC in 2022: The Nosy Be Cichlid...



... and the Titicaca Water Frog.



The curves are pointing upwards: Development of the number of holdings within CC ...



... and the number of animals.

Scientific name	Engl. name	Animals total (m/f/u)	Keepers total	Deaths 11/21 – 11/22 (m/f/u)	New offspring 11/21 – 11/22	External arrivals 11/21–11/22 (m/f/u)	Goal (animals, keepers)	Status*
<b>Amphibians</b>								
<i>Agalychnis lemur</i>	Lemur Leaf Frog	52 (16/12/24)	9	16 (0/2/14)	25 (0/0/25)	0 (0/0/0)	225, 40	30 %
<i>Alytes muletensis</i>	Mallorcan Midwife Toad	209 (3/6/185)	19	20 (0/0/20)	108 (0/0/108)	31 (0/0/31)	425, 53	43 %
<i>Ambystoma andersoni</i>	Anderson's Salamander	93 (2/2/89)	5	0 (0/0/0)	7 (0/0/7)	86 (2/2/82)	225, 40	25 %
<i>Ambystoma dumerilii</i>	Lake Patzcuaro Salamander	143 (42/45/56)	23	22 (2/2/18)	42 (0/0/42)	1 (0/0/1)	225, 40	61 %
<i>Bombina orientalis</i>	Oriental Fire-bellied Toad	200 (17/13/170)	16	20 (0/0/20)	61 (0/0/61)	54 (0/0/54)	225, 60	58 %
<i>Ingerophrynus galeatus</i>	Bony-headed Toad	4 (14/13/41)	12	69 (2/2/65)	15 (0/0/15)	16 (0/0/16)	225, 40	31 %
<i>Minyobates steyermarki</i>	Demonic Poison Frog	0 (0/0/0)	0	0 (0/0/0)	0 (0/0/0)	0 (0/0/0)	110, 20	0 %
<i>Phyllobates terribilis</i>	Golden Poison Frog	16 (8/6/2)	4	8 (0/0/8)	0 (0/0/0)	11 (0/0/11)	225, 70	6 %
<i>Salamandra sal. almanzoris</i>	Almanzor Fire Salamander	26 (15/7/4)	9	5 (0/5/0)	0 (0/0/0)	0 (0/0/0)	185, 30	22 %
<i>Salamandra salamandra</i>	Fire Salamander	90 (10/11/69)	10	11 (2/5/4)	8 (0/0/8)	0 (0/0/0)	*	*
<i>Telmatobius culeus</i>	Titicaca Water Frog	36 (6/6/24)	6	0 (0/0/0)	0 (0/0/0)	36 (6/6/24)	225, 45	10 %
<i>Tylotriton vietnamensis</i>	Vietnamese Crocodile Newt	130 (26/33/71)	21	11 (1/0/10)	20 (0/0/20)	36 (0/0/36)	185, 30	70 %
<i>Tylotriton zieglerei</i>	Ziegler's Crocodile Newt	25 (0/0/25)	6	5 (0/0/5)	0 (0/0/0)	21 (0/0/21)	185, 30	17 %
<b>Fish</b>								
<i>Bedotia madagascariensis</i>	Madagascar Rainbowfish	65 (20/6/39)	6	19 (6/13/0)	0 (0/0/0)	65 (0/0/65)	192, 16	36 %
<i>Pychochromis insolitus</i>	Mangarahara Cichlid	139 (21/18/100)	10	5 (1/0/4)	25 (0/0/25)	40 (0/0/40)	192, 16	67 %
<i>Pychochromis loisellei</i>	Loiselle's Ptycho	59 (17/13/29)	6	4 (0/1/3)	0 (0/0/0)	42 (0/0/42)	160, 16	37 %
<i>Ptychochromis oligacanthus</i>	Nosy Be Cichlid	44 (6/4/34)	2	6 (0/0/6)	0 (0/0/0)	50 (6/4/40)	192, 16	18 %



## CITIZEN CONSERVATION

### REVIEW OF THE PILOT PHASE - A STEP TOWARDS SAVING SPECIES

CC was conceptualised by F&F in 2017. In the 2018 project outline, we proposed a five-year pilot phase for CC, which was supported and co-financed by the project partners VdZ and DGHT. The main objectives of this pilot phase were to test our ideas of a civil society conservation breeding initiative in practice through cooperation between private and institutional animal keepers: Test and optimise processes, check the practicability and functionality of CC's guidelines, achieve initial concrete results and find a form for the future of the initiative, which should stand as a separate organisation from 2023 and require further funding.

At the end of the pilot phase, the aim was to evaluate the experiences and results of the first five years of CC. From the outset, CC was launched with two equally weighted objectives: on the one hand, we want to run specific conservation breeding programmes with defined breeding objectives on a scientific basis in order to preserve the species under our care in a stable manner and without major losses in the gene pool of the original animals over an initial medium-term period of 40 years. On the other hand, CC is intended as a campaign to create social support for the necessity of ex situ animal breeding.

CC's breeding targets were calculated when a species was added using the PMx population management statistics tool or the Amphibian Ark population calculator. The breeding targets determined in this way are displayed transparently on the CC website for the respective species, as is the progress made towards achieving them, which is also communicated as a target achievement percentage in the half-yearly animal population balances.

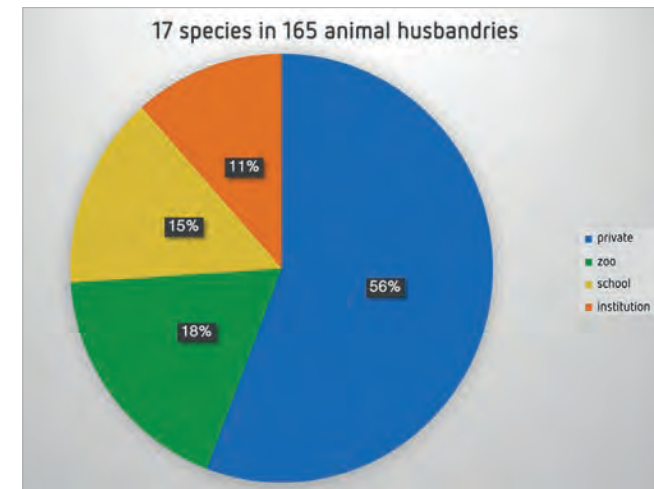
In the project outline from 2018, we set ourselves the overarching goal of managing 10 amphibian species with 15 enclosures in CC during the pilot phase, i.e. a total of 150 amphibian enclosures. At the end of the pilot phase (as at 19 January 2023), we were able to manage 13 amphibian taxa with 3–21 holdings, making a total of 141 holdings. In addition, there were four fish species that we had included in anticipation of the new #Fish scaling to be established in 2023 and which are already being managed in 24 enclosures. This results in a total animal population of 1,422 animals that will be managed in CC at the end of the pilot phase.

We are also already approaching the breeding targets for some species. In particular, we are already relatively close to the target for the Vietnamese Crocodile Newt (*Tylototriton vietnamensis*, breeding achievement target at the half-yearly balance sheet on 15 November 2022 = 70%), the Lake Patzcuaro Salamander (*Ambystoma dumerilii*, 61 %) and the Mangarahara Cichlid (*Ptychochromis insolitus*, 67%). In view of the rapid growth of our population and the remarkable popularity of this species, the chances are also good for the Mallorcan Midwife Toad (*Alytes muletensis*), despite the high target numbers. According to our interpretation, this means that we have already “brought these species to safety” for the time being through our initiative if CC continues to run according to plan – if they were to become extinct in the wild, we could point to a stable population in human care and thus prevent their disappearance or, for example, support possible reintroduction projects.

The technical processes within CC largely proved their worth during the pilot phase. It was clear from the outset that a powerful database would be required to replace our Excel spreadsheets as the number of animals and participants increased. With “Wild at Home”, a suitable tool will be available from 2023.

The other internal mechanics described in the 2018 project outline essentially worked as expected. However, modifications and optimisations were necessary in all areas during the practical test, both in the design of the guidelines and contracts as well as in the implementation of veterinary examinations, for example.

According to our cost estimate at the end of the pilot phase, CC currently requires around € 5,000 per year and species for the management and content-related support of an individual breeding programme. We were therefore € 1,000 per year and species above the costs projected in the outline. It is difficult to predict whether savings can be achieved here through optimised processes (“Wild at Home”, improved animal shipping logistics, etc.) or whether the costs are more likely to increase under full load of the individual programmes. In any case, it is clear that the more species are to be conserved in CC, the higher the financial requirements.



Status at the end of the pilot phase: 17 species in 165 holdings and their distribution across the holding types.



The target numbers for the Vietnamese Crocodile Newt were almost reached by the end of 2022.



Saving species makes work: CC participant Thomas Wilms changing the water for larvae of the Lake Patzcuaro Salamander.



You can't get any closer to the people: Christian Bittner's leather goods shop in Neustadt an der Aisch has a CC terrarium with Bony-headed Toads right by the checkout.



School vivariums are particularly involved in keeping the Oriental Fire-bellied Toad at CC.



CC supporter Holger Kraus has set up a breeding facility for CC species behind the scenes of the NaturaGart park in Ibbenbüren.



THE YEAR OF THE SCHNILCH

The concept of ex situ animal management as an instrument of species conservation has so far not only lacked broad social support, it has even faced considerable headwinds. Scepticism towards zoos and private wild animal husbandry seems to dominate entire milieus, especially those young urban people who are actually particularly receptive to the issue of the biodiversity crisis, as the strong support for Fridays for Future shows.

CC was therefore designed from the outset as a “pro ex situ” campaign. On the one hand, this includes addressing the threat to biodiversity through our conservation breeding programmes themselves, but also the possibility of saving species in human care, which in many cases has unfortunately long been without alternative. On the other hand, CC also wants to create understanding for the necessity of ex situ animal husbandry beyond its own activities.

To this end, we launched the Creatures Podcast in 2020, the year of coronavirus: Informative but whimsical short stories by our team of authors Heiko Werning, Ulrike Sterblich and Björn Encke about animal species that could or could only be saved through ex situ husbandry, presented by various actors from civil society such as actors, musicians and writers. The third series of podcasts was launched in February 2022 to coincide with the publication of the book “Von Okapi, Scharnierschildkröte und Schnilch – ein prekäres Bestiarium” (“Of Okapi, Box Turtle and Schnilch – a precarious Bestiarium”) by Galiani Berlin.

For the two new seasons of the podcast, we have once again succeeded in recruiting a prominent group of supporters from various areas of public life to raise their voices in favour of ex situ species conservation: They included actors Stefan Wilkening and Axel Prahl, Olympic high jump champion Ulrike Nasse-Meyfarth, musicians Thomas Pigor, Bernadette La Hengst and Barbara Thalheim, TV presenters Eckart von Hirschhausen and Petra Gerster, journalists Margarete Stokowski and Hajo Schumacher, writers Frank Goosen, Jakob Hein, Frank Schätzing, Ana Marwan and Paul Bokowski, illustrator Kat Menschik, Danijel Višević as a representative of the “green economy”, children’s television makers Willi Weitzel and Annika Preil, screenwriter Murmel Clausen, cabaret artists Torsten Sträter and Katinka Buddenkotte, comedian Annette Frier, Titanic editor-in-chief Julia Mateus and to round off the series with a special about the Beutelwolf Heiko Werning himself.

The “Prekäres Bestiarium” received a considerable media response and consistently very good, sometimes enthusiastic reviews. In 24 radio programmes (including Deutschlandfunk Kultur, hr2 Kultur, NDR 2, NDR Kultur, Radio Bremen 2, rbb Radio eins, rbb Kultur, WDR 3, WDR 5, Ö1), the book and thus also ex situ conservation breeds and CC were presented either in the form of book reviews or in interviews with Heiko Werning or Ulrike Sterblich. WDR had some of the stories read by professional narrators and broadcast them in a series of readings lasting almost two hours around International Biodiversity Day on 22 May 2022. The book also met with a lively response in the press: 18 articles in the popular press, from a double-page spread in the Kölner Express am Sonntag to full-page articles in the Berliner Zeitung, Mitteldeutsche Zeitung, Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung and Badische Zeitung to magazine articles, including in the Viennese “Falter”, and equally favourable reviews in specialist journals, including the Cologne Zoo magazine, the “Koenigiana” (scientific journal of the Alexander Koenig Zoological Research Museum in Bonn), “Arbeitsplatz Zoo” and the ZGAP-Mitteilungen.

To crown our work, a jury of 11 science journalists from “Zeit” to the Max Planck Institute on behalf of the magazine “bild der wissenschaft” finally voted the Bestiary “Wissensbuch des Jahres 2022” (“Knowledge Book of the Year 2022”) in the category “Unterhaltung – das spannendste Buch” (“Entertainment – the most exciting book”) – and the Bestiary also won the parallel readers’ rating.

The first edition sold out quickly and the second edition went on sale in early summer. A total of around 4,800 books were sold in 2022. The author’s fee and an additional donation of € 0.50 per book sold from the publisher go directly to CC, i.e. around € 2.50 per book.



Five minutes of fame: Heiko Werning talks about Citizen Conservation on Mittagsmagazin.



Resounding success: “Von Okapi, Scharnierschildkröte und Schnilch”



24 radio programmes and numerous press articles dealt with CC and ex situ species rescue on the occasion of the Bestiary.



## IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE CITIZENS

Ulrike Sterblich and Heiko Werning also went on a small reading tour with the Schnilch, despite the generally difficult conditions for live performances during the pandemic. Nevertheless, the Bestiary was duly celebrated on 18 May with a book premiere and the support of numerous Creatures Podcasters and musicians – Marion Brasch, Kirsten Fuchs, Fil, Manfred Maurenbrecher and Sebastian Krämer – at the Mehringhof Theatre in Berlin. Further Bestiary readings took place at the Fontane bookshop in Neuruppin (18 February), at Schönhausen Palace in Berlin-Pankow (5 April), at the Dussmann cultural department stores in Berlin (28 April), at the Kurt Tucholsky Literature Museum in Rheinsberg (9 June), on the occasion of the awarding of the Berlin Zoo's species conservation prize to exemplary school projects by Federal Environment Minister Steffi Lemke at Berlin Zoo (5 July), at the summer festival of the Jewish Museum Berlin (21 August), in the Pankow City Library (10 September), the Finne Brewery in Münster (22 September) and in the Neuss City Library (19 October).



Book launch of the Bestiary at the Mehringhof Theatre in Berlin



Ulrike Sterblich reads from the Bestiary at the Jewish Museum's summer festival.

### Dates 2022 | Events & conferences

- 27 – 29 January** | Björn Encke at the Rigi Symposium in Goldau (Switzerland)
- 28 January** | Heiko Werning presents CC at the Gut Leidenhausen environmental education centre in Cologne.
- 5 February** | Johannes Penner takes part in the ARG UK conference (online only).
- 28 March** | Heiko Werning represents CC at the DGHT city group Zurich and ...
- 9 May** | ... at a teacher training course at the Biotopia Natural History Museum in Munich.
- 10 May** | Björn Encke and Heiko Werning at the parliamentary evening of the VdZ
- 28 May** | Heiko Werning at the Elmar Meier Symposium for endangered turtles at the Allwetterzoo Münster
- 15 – 18 June** | Björn Encke represents CC at the VdZ annual conference.
- 17 June** | Johannes Penner answers questions about the film "Willi und die Wunderkröte" as an amphibian expert at the Silbersalz Festival.
- 21 June** | Björn Encke and Heiko Werning at the Loro Parque Parliamentary Evening
- 25 June** | Johannes Penner as CC representative at the ZGAP annual conference
- 27 – 28 August** | Tina Nagorzanski attends the DCG and VDA conference on species conservation in aquaristics in Thannhausen.
- 1 – 9 September** | Johannes Penner takes part in the conference of the European Herpetological Society (SEH) in Belgrade.
- 22 September** | Heiko Werning attends the annual meeting of the Ring der Vivarienschulen in Wuppertal to deepen our focus on cooperation with school zoos and vivaria.
- 28 September to 2 October** | Team CC at the DGHT annual conference in Berlin
- 7 – 9 October** | Björn Encke and Tina Nagorzanski report on CC and the development of the "Wild at Home" online platform at the Haus des Meeres.
- 21 – 22 October** | As CC representative, Johannes Penner attends the DGHT-AG Urodela conference in Gersfeld.
- 5 November** | Johannes Penner promotes CC at the DGHT-AG Anuren conference in Marktheidenfeld..
- 10 – 11 November** | Björn Encke and Johannes Penner attend the meeting of the VdZ's Species Conservation and Science Working Groups in Frankfurt am Main.



Björn Encke and Tina Nagorzanski among aquarists in front of the Haus des Meeres in Vienna

Schwerin Zoo offered us a particularly attractive opportunity to present CC. They invited us to create an exhibition on 13 pre-installed mounts for large information boards about the Bestiary and the Creatures Podcast. Each panel presents an endangered species with a short text passage from the book and a photo. A QR code also leads directly to the corresponding Creatures Podcast. In this way, the eye-catching boards will advertise our cause, the podcast and the book in a highly visible way for a whole year. The exhibition was opened on the evening of 10 June with an open-air reading by Heiko Werning in front of members of the Schwerin Lions Club.



Exhibition at Schwerin Zoo on the "Prekäres Bestiarium"

One of the highlights was undoubtedly the DGHT's annual conference, which the society organised in collaboration with F&F and CC in Berlin. The international symposium with around 200 participants took place from 28 September to 2 October at the Alice Rooftop & Garden in Berlin-Charlottenburg and was strongly influenced by us with a large CC programme block on Saturday, where Heiko Werning, Johannes Penner, Tina Nagorzanski and Vanessa Dubberke presented the various aspects of CC and "Wild at Home" and CC participants reported on their breeding. On Friday evening, Heiko Werning presented an entertaining reading stage with various authors, which once again centred on the Bestiary, and the CC team was present throughout the conference at a stand in the foyer, where they conducted a survey among the conference participants as a focus group test for "Wild at Home".



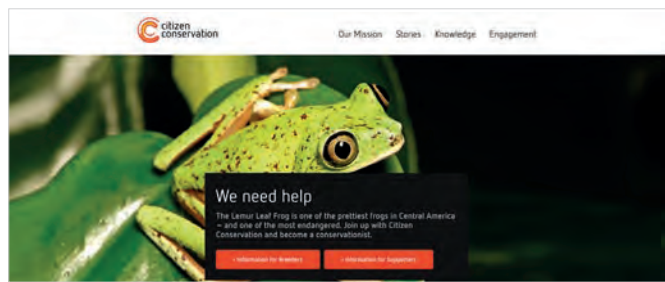
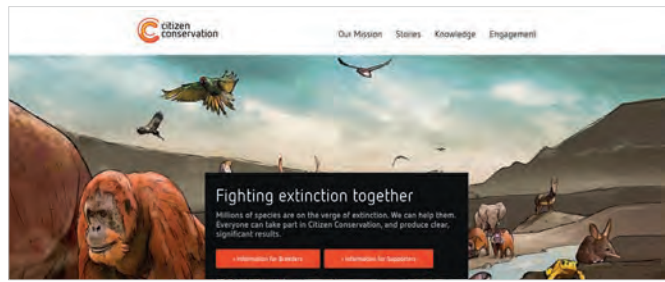
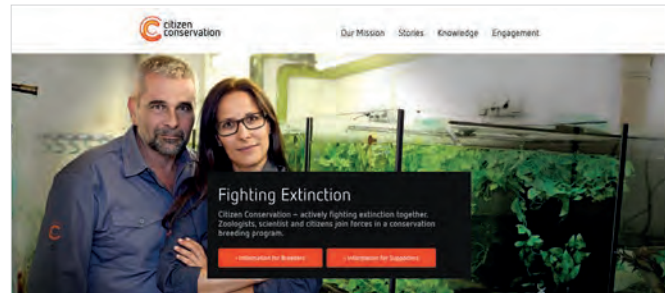
Johannes Penner presents the Citizen Conservation Fire Salamander project at the DGHT annual conference in Berlin.



## CC-WEBSITE

In 2022, we registered 6,000 users. The website was accessed 31,000 times. 64% of visitors accessed the site from Germany. The USA, Austria and Switzerland each accounted for 3%. The remaining percentages are spread across other countries. 70% of users access the CC website via mobile devices. The “Species” page, on which all CC species are presented, was clicked on most frequently (7,500). The Vietnamese Crocodile Newt page was the most frequently visited. Many users also found out about participating in CC on the “Breeders” page (1,580). This year, we published nine news articles, seven art pages and a landing page for the book “Von Okapi, Scharnierschildkröte und Schnilch – ein prekäres Bestiarium”.

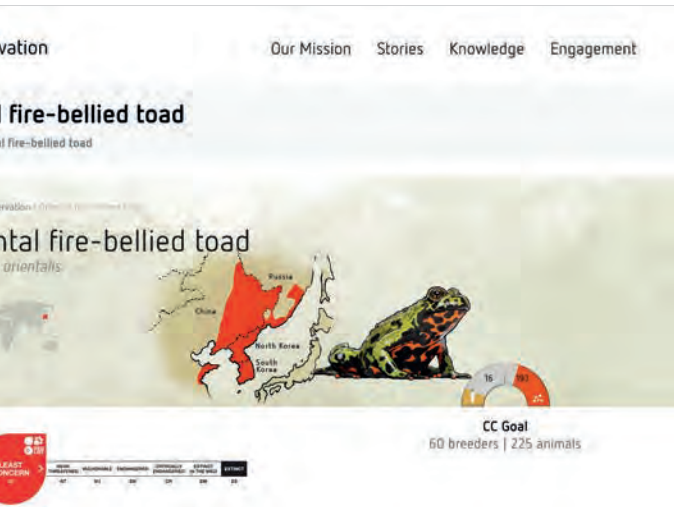
The figures shift for the variant showing the endangered frog species: Here, only 50% of all visitors to the homepage responded by clicking on the “Breeder” button, while 30% wanted to receive more information about supporting CC. We will incorporate these results into the concept for the relaunch of our website.



The three variants of the CC landing page: 1.) CC keepers with the slogan “Fighting Extinction” 2.) an illustration of the exodus with text about species extinction and 3.) a Lemur Leaf Frog that needs help.

## NEWSLETTER

At the end of the year, we sent out a newsletter to our 307 subscribers. We plan to expand this information and marketing tool for those interested in CC in the future. Once completed, “Wild at Home” will be available for internal communication and the provision of news for CC participants.



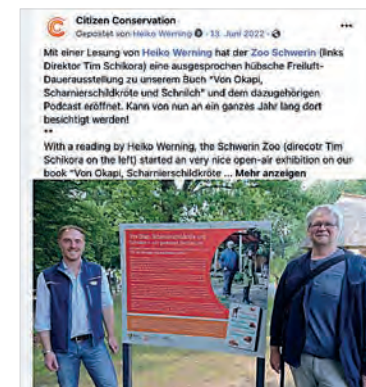
The publication of the Oriental Fire-bellied Toad species page as a new CC species generated many visits.

Three different landing page variants were created for the launch of the CC website at the time. Which variant is displayed when the homepage is visited is random. However, the three variants are displayed approximately equally often. The aim was to find out whether the different user approach of the three variants (common breeders network, endangered species extinction or support for endangered frog species) changes anything in the behaviour of the users. First of all, it can be stated that the visitor guidance planned with the help of the design works, because in all variants around 80% of new users clicked on one of the two highlighted red buttons and not on the menu items in the navigation. In the two variants “Breeder network” and “Species extinction”, around 70% clicked on the “Info for breeders” button and 12% on “Info for supporters”.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

### FACEBOOK

The target group of animal keepers, people interested in species conservation and project partners was addressed in 197 Facebook posts this year. A total of 140 new followers were gained, which is roughly the same growth rate as the previous year. In 2022, the Facebook channel was unable to match the previous year’s reach. With 60,200 people reached, this figure fell by 16%. Our exhibition on the “Prekäres Bestiarium” at Schwerin Zoo achieved the highest organic reach at 3,800. Björn Encke’s lecture at the VdZ conference and the publication of the “Prekäres Bestiarium” came in second and third. Paid adverts were created for two episodes of the Creatures Podcast. They both reached between 1,000 and 2,500 people. Our community rejoiced with us when the “Prekäres Bestiarium” was nominated for “Wissensbuch des Jahres” and clicked the “Like” button 159 times on the corresponding post, making it the post with the most likes in 2022. With 2,800 page views, the Facebook page was accessed around 70% more often than in the previous year.

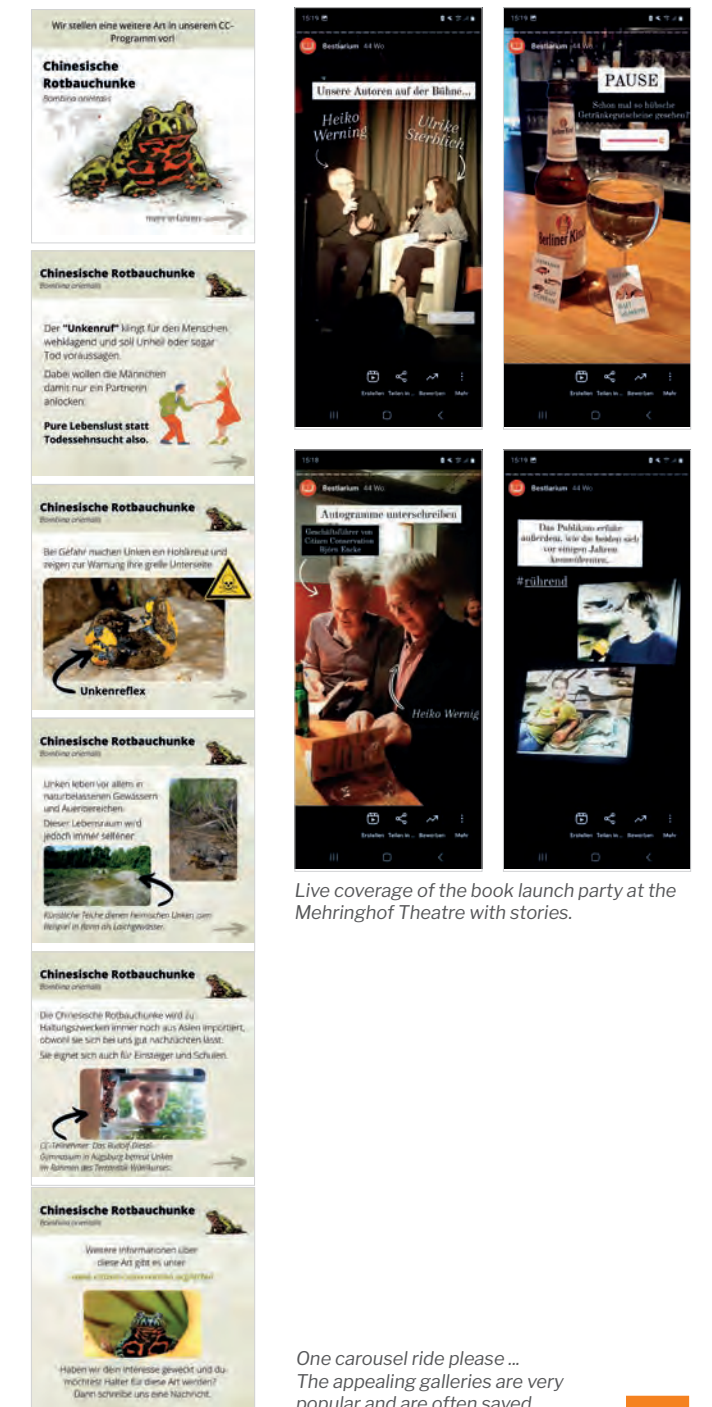


From podcast to book to exhibition: the post about our contribution to ZooKultur in Schwerin reached 3,800 accounts.

### INSTAGRAM

There are only positive things to report from the Instagram channel. Almost 300 new followers were gained, which corresponds to growth of 43% compared to the previous year. The reach increased by an incredible 541% to 27,300, partly due to paid adverts, which generated a total reach of almost 16,000, and partly due to organic growth, which was particularly strong in the second half of the year. This is mainly thanks to a new CC participant who regularly mentioned us on his popular Instagram channel. This unpaid advertising also led to a 75% increase in profile views compared to the previous year.

In 2022, 177 posts and 350 stories were posted. In addition to the established publication of new podcast episodes, a new section was launched especially for Instagram. As links are not suitable for Instagram posts and are also rarely clicked on in stories, the CC species are now regularly presented here in a carousel post, i.e. a gallery that you can swipe through from left to right with your finger. To this end, some of the information on the species page is presented in a graphically creative way using the online tool Canva. The art carousels are regularly among the most popular posts of the month.



Live coverage of the book launch party at the Mehringhof Theatre with stories.

One carousel ride please ... The appealing galleries are very popular and are often saved.



TWITTER

At the end of 2022, we had 213 followers on our Twitter channel. We sent 233 tweets. With around 80,000 impressions (number of people who saw a tweet), this figure is around 10,000 behind that of the previous year. The tweet that performed best by far was the Creatures Podcast episode about the beaver, which was read by Margarete Stokowski. With over 191,000 followers with whom she shared the episode on Twitter, the author generated 36,000 impressions. In comparison: on average, we achieve around 2,000 to 5,000 impressions per month. The tweet also led to 19 profile views. A post from our summer series with designs by students from the Berlin School of Media Design also achieved a high number of impressions thanks to relevant keywords. It was a picture of the Golden Lion Tamarin on Golden Lion Tamarin Day.



That was the plan: Celebrities, such as Margarete Stokowski, give a voice to endangered species and thus reach many people.



PODIGEE

Two new seasons, i.e. 24 new episodes of the Creatures Podcast, were released via Podigee. We recorded over 17,000 downloads and streams, around 159% more than in 2021. With almost 14,000 views, Spotify is the app most frequently used to listen to the podcast. We ended 2022 with over 500 subscribers. In 2021, there were just over 100. This year, the episode with the most views is once again episode no. 1: The Northern Bald Ibis with author Wladimir Kaminer. The episode about the Visayan Warty Pig with narrator Stefan Wilkening, published to mark the "Zoo Animal of the Year" campaign, is the most popular of the new episodes uploaded in 2022.



The zoo animal of the year 2022 immortalised as a podcast

The students at Mediasdesign Hochschule Berlin were inspired by the stories from the Creatures Podcast. We presented the designs as a summer special on CC's social media channels.

PRESS

We were also able to reach the public beyond the Schnilch (see p. 40 – 41). As hoped, our local keepers are proving to be multipliers. Reports in the local press about zoos, school zoos and clubs that take part in CC help to get the message out into the country. Björn Encke was also able to explain the concept of conservation breeding in a full-page interview in "Neues Deutschland".





# EL MÁXIMO LEADER EN ECUADOR

On 1 November 2016, Mark-Oliver Rödel took over the chairmanship of Frogs & Friends. Six years later, this photo was taken by Frogs & Friends curator Johannes Penner in the Ecuadorian rainforest, far away from MO's actual herpetological home of Africa. We are very grateful for this journey together and very excited to see where it will take us.



MO in the rainforest

**16**  
To see our keepers in action, you sometimes have to descend into deep crypts – Titicaca Water Frogs swim around in the paddling pool in this cold storage cellar.

**15**  
The frog researcher in the cinema: Johannes Penner as an amphibian expert at the screening of "Willi und die Wunderkröte" at the SilberSalz Festival. | Joachim Blobel

**14**  
The great team from Galiani Berlin also looked after us at a Bestiary reading at Berlin Zoo.

**13**  
Will it fit? Architect Adriaan Klein measuring the openings in the house – looking for a way into the house for the 3000 litre Titicaca Water Frog tank.

**12**  
Virtual reality in the office – Vanessa Dubberke tests what her colleagues at IMF have come up with.

**17**  
Internship at home: Tina Nagorzanski on assignment at Schönbrunn Zoo.

**1**  
The year gets off to a good start: Mark-Oliver Rödel signs the CC shareholder agreement, still wearing a mask.

**2**  
Preparations for Amphibium: Long days of planning in various configurations – here exhibition curator Susann Knakowske, architect Adriaan Klein and our man for digital media, Bernd Schultheis.

**3**  
At the Rigi Symposium in January 22, CC team members Björn Encke and Thomas Ziegler were able to spend a weekend with an illustrious circle of zoo directors to get a bird's eye view.

**4**  
Selfie before the first joint Bestiary reading at Schloss Schönhausen: our author dream team Ulrike Sterblich and Heiko Werning.

**5**  
The queen of "Wild at Home": Conceptor Bea Seggering at the workshop at our conference room.

**6**  
Sneak preview: on the fringes of a visit by Björn Encke to Toni Weissenbacher in Vienna, future CC species are already being discussed – such as the Nguru Pygmy Chameleon (*Rhampholeon acuminatus*).

**7**  
The Filmtank children's documentary "Willi und die Wunderkröte" was released in cinemas on 12 May 2022. Inspired by Frogs & Friends, Filmtank producer Thomas Tielsch embarked on a long journey in 2016. After a long time, all is finally well.

**8**  
The wild neighbourhood of Berlin-Kreuzberg: At its final meeting, the CC Pilot Phase Advisory Board marvelled at a burnt-down car standing in front of our office.

**9**  
At the end of a pilot advisory board meeting at the legendary Konrad Tönz in Kreuzberg, Axel Kwet, Johannes Penner, Matt Goetz and Tina Nagorzanski enjoying an after-work drink in a dignified 1970s atmosphere.

**10**  
The loneliness of the curator before installation: Susann Knakowske on the construction site for the Amphibium at Hanover Adventure Zoo, which was still very empty in June, trying to visualise everything from the end.

**11**  
You guessed it right: The research we funded on the Goliath Frog made it onto a TV quiz show in August.

**12**  
Virtual reality in the office – Vanessa Dubberke tests what her colleagues at IMF have come up with.

**13**  
AMPHIBIUM

**14**  
The great team from Galiani Berlin also looked after us at a Bestiary reading at Berlin Zoo.

**15**  
The frog researcher in the cinema: Johannes Penner as an amphibian expert at the screening of "Willi und die Wunderkröte" at the SilberSalz Festival. | Joachim Blobel

**16**  
To see our keepers in action, you sometimes have to descend into deep crypts – Titicaca Water Frogs swim around in the paddling pool in this cold storage cellar.

**17**  
Internship at home: Tina Nagorzanski on assignment at Schönbrunn Zoo.



## FULFILMENT OF THE STATUTORY OBJECTIVES

In the 2021/2022 reporting period, the contracts with the zoological gardens in Zurich, Vienna and Cologne for updating the exhibition content expired. These had been extended into 2021 due to the zoo closures during the coronavirus pandemic. Zurich Zoo has dismantled its Frogs & Friends exhibition module in 2021, while the exhibitions at the zoos in Cologne and Vienna will continue to run without further updates until further notice. At the same time, planning for the amphibian house at Hanover Adventure Zoo began in 2021. Online activities (digital offerings and permanent editorial operations) were also continued. These activities are in line with our first statutory objective of promoting EDUCATION AND POPULAR EDUCATION in accordance with Section 52 (2) sentence 1 no. 7 AO.

Citizen Conservation as a jointly coordinated conservation breeding programme of private and institutional animal owners includes, in addition to the the aforementioned statutory objective of EDUCATION AND POPULAR EDUCATION the other statutory objectives of promoting civic ENGAGEMENT in accordance with § Section 52 (2) sentence 1 no. 25 AO, ANIMAL BREEDING pursuant to Section 52 (2) sentence 1 no. 23 AO, NATURE and ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION pursuant to Section 52 (2) sentence 1 no. 8 AO and

ANIMAL WELFARE pursuant to Section 52 (2) sentence 1 no. 14 AO as well as the promotion of ANIMAL BREEDING pursuant to Section 52 (2) sentence 1 no. 23 AO. In the course of the spin-off of Citizen Conservation as a gGmbH in 2022, the Frogs & Friends commitment here formally changes to a contribution to the promotion of science and research as well as nature and environmental protection as a fundraiser within the meaning of Section 58 No. 2 AO (FÖRDER-KÖRPERSCHAFT).

The wildlife database project "Wild at Home", which is funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, also fulfils the above-mentioned statutory objectives of promoting civic ENGAGEMENT in accordance with Section 52 para. 2 sentence 1 no. 25 AO, ANIMAL BREEDING pursuant to Section 52 (2) sentence 1 no. 23 AO, the PROTECTION of NATURE and the ENVIRONMENT pursuant to Section 52 (2) sentence 1 no. 8 AO and the PROTECTION of ANIMALS pursuant to Section 52 (2) sentence 1 no. 14 AO as well as the promotion of ANIMAL BREEDING pursuant to Section 52 (2) sentence 1 no. 23 AO. This means that four of the association's five statutory objectives were pursued during the reporting period.



Farewell: The maintenance contracts for the Frogs & Friends info terminals in Zurich, Vienna and Cologne zoos expired in 2022. It was a great time at the bar. | Rita Schlegel



Tobias and Melina from Rudolf-Diesel-Gymnasium Augsburg at the terrarium with the CC toads from their biology course. | Markus Pfister

## STRATEGIC GOALS

The last few years have been strongly characterised by the development of Citizen Conservation. With the establishment of the Citizen Conservation Foundation gGmbH in 2022, the first decisive step has been taken to put CC on its own feet. For the time being, Frogs & Friends will continue to be closely interwoven with CC gGmbH in terms of personnel and content until 2027. At the same time, however, Frogs & Friends will increasingly focus on its other objectives, which remain at the centre of the association's aims alongside the development of sustainable conservation breeding for endangered species.

This includes our expertise in the area of cooperation with colleagues abroad, with a focus on the African continent, which has come to a standstill in recent

years, mainly due to the pandemic. In the coming years, we want to expand our collaborations and permanent partnerships in Central and West Africa and establish sustainable structures in the areas of research and species conservation. The establishment of appropriate breeding and research capacities in Germany in the form of our own breeding centre would be an important step towards laying the foundations for corresponding local facilities.

Another focus of Frogs & Friends' work from the outset has been the conception and realisation of digital and physical educational offerings. Frogs & Friends aims to position itself permanently as a partner for the conception, planning and realisation of exhibitions (both permanent and temporary) in suitable zoological institutions. The response to the Amphibium at Hanover Adventure Zoo will certainly point the way forward, as it is a new type of zoo exhibition, at least in German-speaking countries.



The Nimba Toad is not forgotten. Since 2019, we have been working to establish a reserve population in captivity for the only known genuine viviparous frog in the world, which lives on a few square kilometres in Guinea. It's a rocky road, and not just because of coronavirus. But we're sticking with it.

From the very beginning, one focus of Frogs & Friends' work was the conception of physical exhibitions – here a design for Schwerin Zoo for the redesign of the square at the research centre.



## FINANCIAL REPORT 2021

In the 2021 reporting year, income totaled a good € 372,000 and expenses amounted to € 382,000. The Association of Zoological Gardens (VdZ), the German Society for Herpetology and Terrarium Science (DGHT) and the German Zoo Society (DTG) contributed € 80,000 in the form of funding as part of the Citizen Conservation project.

In terms of costs, Citizen Conservation was the largest budget item at € 112,759. The provision of staff by Frogs & Friends for CC totalled € 51,496. This resulted in total CC project costs of € 164,255 in 2021. The development of "Wild at Home" cost around € 21,500 in the reporting year. Programming costs of € 50,000, which were covered by the discount commitment from marmalade GmbH, are not reported. Around € 28,500 was spent on the Hanover exhibition project and € 6,000 on the development of a film terrarium.

**TABLE: INCOME STATEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 4 (3) ESTG AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021**

<b>Operating income</b>	<b>€ 372,422.10</b>
Turnover	€ 22,342.87
Contributions CC	€ 80,000.00
Donations & sponsorships	€ 265,940.73
Value added tax	€ 3,068.50
Contributions, interest & grants	€ 1,070.00
<b>Operating charges</b>	<b>€ 382,348.47</b>
Staff costs	€ 162,155.93
Project costs CC	€ 112,758.93
Other project costs	€ 66,083.44
Advertising and travel expenses	€ 9,687.10
Taxes, insurance, contributions	€ 13,364.59
Office: office supplies, training, accounting (various costs + maintenance + external services)	€ 14,508.08
Depreciation	€ 517.00
Input tax	€ 3,202.29
Value added tax	€ 71.11
<b>Loss</b>	<b>€ -9,926.37</b>

## FINANCIAL REPORT 2022

In the 2022 reporting year, F&F's income of € 553,000 exceeded the previous year's volume by € 180,000. This jump was largely due to the two major projects Amphibium at Hanover Adventure Zoo and the development of the wildlife database "Wild at Home" (a project funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action), which were responsible for a total inflow of € 243,000 (gross). At the same time, the project partners' contributions to F&F were cancelled in the course of the spin-off of the Citizen Conservation Foundation.

On the expenditure side, the item for Citizen Conservation was accordingly limited to € 33,000 in liquid funds. A total of € 86,580.74 was made available for CC in the area of personnel costs. This was done in line with the provisions of the grant agreement and management agreement between F&F and CC. Just under € 10,000 was spent on editorial work; otherwise, with the exception of a few travel expenses for conference participation, almost all expenditure related to the work on the two major construction sites Amphibium Hanover and "Wild at Home".

**TABLE: INCOME STATEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 4 (3) ESTG AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022**

<b>Operating income</b>	<b>€ 553,077.13</b>
Turnover: Hanover Zoo, LBV, Cologne Zoo, KiWi	€ 122,952.80
Grants (BMWK for Wild at Home)	€ 121,932.93
Allocation CC for WaH	€ 20,000.00
Grants from the HIT Environmental Foundation Fire Salamander	€ 10,500.00
Donations & sponsorships	€ 255,274.87
Value added tax	€ 21,841.03
Contributions & interest	€ 575.50
<b>Operating charges</b>	<b>€ 558,187,84 €</b>
Staff costs, total social expenses	€ 227,794.76
Project costs CC	€ 33,012.60
Other project costs (Amphibium Hanover, WaH, editorial office)	€ 222,841.21
Advertising and travel expenses	€ 16,342.89
Taxes, insurance, contributions, KSK	€ 37,560.20
Office: office supplies, training, accounting, licences	€ 7,496.28
Depreciation	€ 4,107.96
Input taxes	€ 8,495.60
Value added tax	€ 536.34
<b>Loss</b>	<b>€ -5,110.71</b>



BALANCE SHEET FOR THE SHORT FISCAL YEAR 2022 (REPORTING DATE 31 DECEMBER 2022)

ASSETS	EUR	LIABILITIES	EUR
<b>Current assets</b>		<b>Shareholders' equity</b>	
Debtors and other assets	€ 11,187.25	Share capital	€ 25,000.00
Cash at bank and in hand, postal giro and central bank balances, cheques	€ 49,033.69	Net income for the year	€ 35,220.94
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>€ 60,220.94</b>	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>€ 60,220.94</b>

The share capital contributions of the three shareholders F&F (€ 9,375 = 37.5%), VdZ (€ 9,375 = 37.5%) and DGHT (€ 6,250 = 25%) totaling € 25,000 are held in CC's call money account. The current account had a balance of € 23,365.63 on 31/12/22 and the CC PayPal account had a balance of € 668.06.

In total, CC's liquidity as at 31/12/22 therefore amounted to € 24,033.69. Adding existing receivables totaling € 11,187.25 results in a balance sheet net income for the year of € 35,220.94.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT 1ST JANUARY 2022 TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

Operating income	EUR	EUR
Grants & donations		<b>€ 146,854.75</b>
<b>Operating charges</b>		
Contributions	€ 55.00	
Advertising and travelling expenses	€ 13,395.87	
Direct project costs: coordination costs, fees, animal transport, veterinary medicine, etc.	€ 88,546.62	
Miscellaneous operating costs	€ 9,636.32	
<b>Total</b>		<b>€ 111,633.81</b>
<b>Earnings after taxes</b>		<b>€ 35,220.94</b>
<b>Profit for the financial year</b>		<b>€ 35,220.94</b>

In the short fiscal year 2022 of the Citizen Conservation Foundation gGmbH, operating income of € 146,854.75 was offset by expenses of € 111,633.81. The net profit for the year also amounts to € 35,220.94.

The balance sheet and Profit and Loss Account do not include the provision of personnel as part of the management agreement and the grant agreement between Frogs & Friends and CC. The provision of personnel by Frogs & Friends corresponded to Staff costs of € 86,580.74 in 2022 as a whole. This means that the real expenses for Citizen Conservation totaled € 198,214.55 in the 2022 reporting year.

SOCIAL CONTRACT OBJECTIVES

According to § 2.3 of the articles of association, the purposes of the Citizen Conservation Foundation gGmbH are to promote science and research, education, public and vocational training, nature conservation and environmental protection, animal welfare and animal breeding as well as civic engagement in favour of the aforementioned charitable purposes.

- According to § 2.4 of the articles of association, these purposes are to be realised in particular by
- a) the establishment of coordinated conservation breeding programmes for species for which the establishment of scientifically managed reserve populations is useful or necessary due to their endangered status or other relevant reasons,
  - b) the systematic collection and processing of knowledge about the keeping and breeding of species and making it accessible to the general public,
  - c) the targeted provision of participation and further education programmes with a focus on the keeping and breeding of wild animals, and
  - d) the conception and realisation of research projects in the field of animal and species protection; the results are published promptly.

In the reporting year, the number of conservation breeding programmes was increased from 14 to 17. The increase in the number of breeding programmes by almost two thirds to 165 was particularly pleasing. The media resonance associated with the publication of the book "Von Okapi, Scharnierschildkröte und Schnilch – ein prekäres Bestiarium" enabled the topic of ex situ species conservation to be effectively communicated to broader sections of society. As part of efforts to establish a Germany-wide network to protect the native Fire Salamander, the first steps were also taken to prepare corresponding research projects. In this respect, all of the purposes set out in the articles of association were addressed in the 2022 reporting year.





# THE FROGS & FRIENDS PARTNER NETWORK



VdZ



asa  
amphibian survival alliance



KÖLNER ZOO



ERLEBNIS  
ZOO  
HANNOVER



Tiergarten  
Nürnberg



MUSEUM FÜR  
NATURKUNDE  
BERLIN



INTERACTIVE  
MEDIA FOUNDATION



LBV



ASG  
IUCN SSC  
Amphibian  
Specialist Group



TIERGARTEN  
SCHÖNBRUNN  
[www.zoovienna.at](http://www.zoovienna.at)



ALLWETTERZOO  
MÜNSTER



FILMTANK



ZOO  
SCHWERIN



DGHT  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Herpetologie und Terrarienkunde



Deutsche Tierpark Gesellschaft

## FROGS & FRIENDS E.V.

Großbeerenstr. 84 · DE - 10963 Berlin

Chairman: Dr. Mark-Oliver Rödel

Managing Director: Björn Encke

Register court: Amtsgericht Charlottenburg,

registry number: 33841 B

[www.frogs-friends.org](http://www.frogs-friends.org)