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FOREWORD



Björn Encke,
Managing Director
Frogs & Friends and
Citizen Conservation

2024 was to be a year of consolidation after years of rapid growth in projects, animals and work while funding stagnated. This was particularly true for Citizen Conservation (CC), where we had to manage 27 conservation breeding programmes and set up a national rescue programme for the Fire Salamander with officially one and a half staff positions at the start of the year. Even taking into account the additional one and a half positions provided by Frogs & Friends (F&F) to handle these tasks, we had reached a workload that would not be feasible in the long term.

We were therefore forced to put the brakes on the further scaling of CC until further financial resources were reliably available to hire new employees. This was painful. With CC, we have created a best-practice example that has the potential to become an international role model for how to tackle the species crisis at a civil society level in an appropriate manner. To put it as an economist: We have put a lot of energy into developing an innovative product, tested it successfully – only to fail to bring it to market at full speed. In a way, we are currently keeping a ‘marketready product’ artificially in the development phase.

However, we cannot print the money, but are dependent on reliable support from the stakeholders behind CC, at least as long as we have not established effective donation marketing, which will take years – and as long as there is no government funding in sight for this sovereign task of species conservation. We must also campaign for this, which we will do as a first step

through new economic work in cooperation with the Humboldt University of Berlin.

Fortunately, the zoological gardens are increasingly in favour of CC, and over the course of the year we were able to increase the number of institutions that enable CC by means of a multi-year grant agreement by ten, which gives us the financial leeway to create at least one urgently needed additional CC position in 2025.

Despite all the consolidation, some things are very difficult to stop and probably shouldn't be – for example, the proliferation of endangered species. This naturally continued unabated in 2024 – and the issue of *bsal* and the Fire Salamander cannot be postponed. In April 2024, the Fire Salamander Symposium organised by CC and Frogs & Friends took place in Hanover, where numerous experts from the German-speaking region and the Netherlands discussed how to counter the epidemic and how we can prepare for an infestation of the extremely slow-reproducing Alpine Salamanders. In the end, *Feuersalamander.NET* was founded, and we had already organised the second major event in three months early in the year after the annual meeting of the CC Advisory Board in January. Fortunately, the next major event was a celebration. On 14 May 2024, the Amphibium was officially opened at Hanover Adventure Zoo, and most of the people and companies involved came to see this project come to life together.

A great day – and in a way also a worthy conclusion to the first decade of Frogs & Friends, because that's how we started: with the idea of giving amphibians a voice and a face by using our media expertise in the sense of frog PR – and the Amphibium is a pretty worthy example of this.

Both Amphibium and *Feuersalamander.NET* were then presented at numerous conferences throughout the year, including the EAZA conference in Leipzig and the DGHT annual conference, but also at the World Congress of Herpetology in Kuching/Borneo, where Johannes Penner also presented Citizen Conservation to the global herpetological scene and gave an update on our work in Guinea on the subject of the Nimba Toad.

A look into the future – CC's development will largely depend on the extent to which we succeed in creating a sustainably growing financial basis. The simple formula applies here: more is more. At Frogs & Friends, we want to focus more on storytelling and exhibitions (whether digital or physical) and continue our efforts to build lasting partnerships in Africa. In recent years, Frogs & Friends has put a huge amount of effort into CC. In 2024, for the third year in a row, this was well above the promised €100,000 mark. This calculation does not even include 'Wild at Home'. The platform is also produced by Frogs & Friends and will certainly tie up a lot of capacity here next year as well – getting birds to fly is real work, and not just in wildlife rescue centres.

FOREWORD

Donation account Frogs & Friends e.V.

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IBAN: DE09 4306 0967 1173 1722 00
BIC: GENODEM1GLS

Donation account Citizen Conservation Foundation gGmbH

Bank: GLS Gemeinschaftsbank eG
IBAN: DE38 4306 0967 1271 7068 00
BIC: GENODEM1GLS

But with the right team and the right motivation, a lot is possible, and both are currently very good at CC/F&F. With the planned staff additions for 2025 (commercial management at F&F, species management position at CC), we would have a full 'Magnificent Seven' of permanent employees. Our hope and our ambition is to be able to fulfil the requirements for future growth at both CC and Frogs & Friends with this team.

With best wishes

10 YEARS OF FROGS & FRIENDS

FROM AMPHIZOO TO AMPHIBIUM

The anniversary year 2024 presented the association with a top-class birthday present. The opening of the Amphibium at Hanover Adventure Zoo on 14 May closed a circle that we had started working on a decade ago in a very special way. Strictly speaking, the founding of Frogs & Friends in September 2014 was the result of a multi-year process that began with an idea: the Amphizoo. In view of the global amphibian crisis, we wanted to develop a kind of ‘Sealife for frogs’, a stand-alone facility that would bring people closer to the wonderful world of amphibians, in line with our slogan: ‘Big stories from small messengers’. We spent a year developing a concept with our colleagues from dan pearlman. The pre-feasibility study suggested that operating the facility on 5,000 square metres could also work economically. Only two small details were missing for realisation: the building site in the heart of Berlin and the 17 million euro investment costs ...

The consequence: the central Amphizoo became the decentralised Frogs & Friends project, because we had to go somewhere with all our ideas. Thanks to the support of our partners at the Interactive Media Foundation (IMF), we were able to launch digitally with the wonderful ‘Interactive Excursion’ and several video documentaries on the Frogs & Friends website, which was published in 2016. And thanks to the support of the zoos in Zurich, Cologne and Vienna, we were able to launch the first exhibition presences in zoos in the same year.

This link between digital storytelling and physical presence in the places where things actually happen was extremely important to us. Networking with stakeholders in the field of amphibian research and conservation proved to be a beneficial incubator for the future. This was followed by concept commissions for the Potsdam Biosphere and for the species conservation campus of the Allwetterzoo Münster, which unfortunately were not realised. At the same time, preparations began in 2017 for Citizen Conservation, which we were able to launch the following year as a joint project with the Association of Zoological Gardens (VdZ) and the German Society for Herpetology and Terrarium Science (DGHT). The following year, we were honoured as cultural and creative pilots of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Our work as an amphibian broadcaster also paid off, including our involvement in documenta 14 in Kassel and Athens in 2017 (posthumously realised Fluxus installation by Ben Patterson by Bernd Schultheis) and finally our appointment to the Global Council of the Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA) in 2020. The connection with the IMF resulted in further smaller (toad jumping game) and larger projects (jump and run game and cinema film ‘Willi and the Wonder Toad’), and in 2021 we were able to start developing the wildlife database ‘Wild at Home’ thanks to funding from the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action. With the realisation of the Amphibium in Hanover, which also began in 2021, we returned to our original idea of combining relevant animal husbandry with modern exhibition design to prove that amphibians also have panda potential if they are staged appropriately. ‘Big stories from small messengers’ in other words. It seems to have worked quite well in Hanover. So we can move on.

ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

The number of Frogs & Friends association members remained constant at 14 in the 2024 reporting year. The Annual General Meeting took place on 18 December 2024 in Berlin. As scheduled, the Board of Directors was re-elected and confirmed in its unchanged composition for the next two years. We look forward to the coming years with Mark-Oliver Rödel as Chairman and Saskia Kress and Fabian Leendertz as deputies.

Making the little ones big. At Hanover Adventure Zoo, a huge salamander is not only visible from afar to advertise the Amphibium, but also the entire zoo area that can be accessed by visitors through this gate.



The frog whisperers: Frogs & Friends provided IMF with advice on amphibian-specific questions for the film and jump and run of, ‘Willi und die Wunderkröte’ (Willi and the Wonder Toad).



When elephants fight, it is the frogs that suffer. Frogs & Friends colleague Bernd Schultheis realised the posthumous installation by Ben Patterson for documenta 14 in Kassel and Athens. Frog is Flux ... | Hartmut Jahn

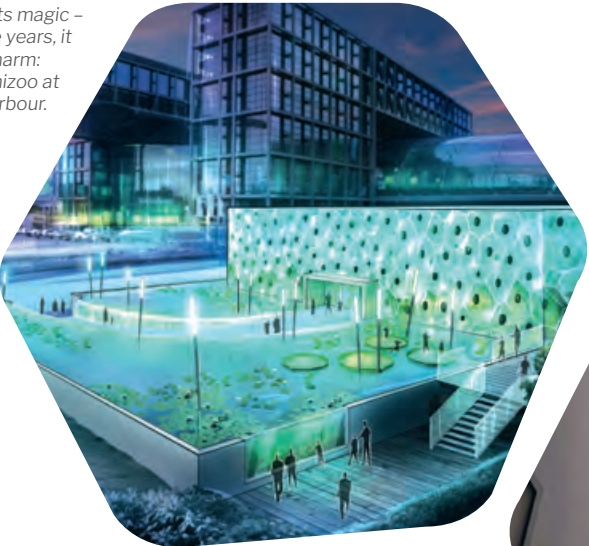


The zoo as a participatory space for discourse. This is where the future is negotiated. Concept for the entrance area of the Münster Allwetterzoo as a species conservation campus.

Today more relevant than ever – in the light of climate change, our present is already the past. The Walk of Change shows our world of tomorrow and the present as a retrospective documentation. Concept for the Biosphäre Potsdam.



Every beginning has its magic – and even after twelve years, it has lost none of its charm: the vision of an Amphizoo at Berlin’s Humboldt Harbour.



The interactive Frogs & Friends bar at Schönbrunn Zoo not only offered videos about the Viennese foot-flagging frogs, but also about projects at the zoos in Cologne and Zurich – where identical terminals were installed. Message: species conservation is never done alone.





This picture should never be missing when there is something big to celebrate that has been fiddled with just minutes before: Head of Zoo Revin Meyer, Zoo Director Andreas Casdorff and F&F Managing Director Björn Encke cut the magic ribbon – the Amphibium is open.

ON, DONE, NEW, ALWAYS ON – EVERY- DAY PROJECT LIFE 2024

You realise most that life is a construction site when you have just finished a huge construction site. And so, with the great sigh of relief in May, when the Amphibium in Hanover finally opened, came the realisation that a whole mass of unfinished tasks had piled up behind this mountain. Although this primarily related to administrative tasks, our larger and smaller flagship projects were now increasingly pushing their way back to the front of the queue.

In a way, we had a stroke of luck with our wildlife database 'Wild at Home'. After the beta version 2023 was completed, our development partner marmalade underwent organisational restructuring, which gave us the opportunity to update the content concept and reposition ourselves for the last marathon before the public launch. We brought our tried-and-tested frontend designer Sebastian Baumann (miiqo studios) on board to completely 'smooth out' the platform once again from a user perspective and to develop a corresponding briefing for the future IT team.

In the summer, curator Johannes Penner and our chairman Mark-Oliver Rödel went on another excursion to Guinea to ensure the continuation of monitoring for the Nimba Toad and to continue (political) discussions on site with regard to the planned reserve population of this extremely endangered and unique frog. When we came to the realisation six years ago that it was now urgently time to establish an ex situ population, we had a time horizon of one to two years in mind. Good things take time – let's hope that we reach our goal in time before climate change kills the fog on the Nimba Mountains (and thus this species).

But life would be too dull if there weren't always new challenges – and so a Fire Salamander Symposium organised by us took place in Hanover in April. Under the leadership of Johannes Penner, scientists, conservationists, private individuals and zoo managers met to discuss the establishment of a network for the protection of native salamanders to better coordinate and structure the fight against the rampant fungal disease Bsal in the future.



Most of the companies involved attended the opening, including colleagues from the Schirm carpentry, who did an impressively perfect job of realising the curved turquoise-green octopus body.

A HOUSE FOR AMPHIBIANS THE AMPHIBIUM OPENS AT THE HANOVER ADVENTURE ZOO

14 May 2024 marks a milestone in the development of Frogs & Friends. Three years after our architect Adriaan Klein came up with the decisive design idea for the 250 square metre amphibian house with his octopus design, the house was opened to the public. A good dozen amphibian species, the majority of which are managed as part of CC conservation breeding programmes, have found a new

home here, embedded in a sophisticated didactic concept that unobtrusively invites visitors to be captivated by the little stars of evolution. Most of the species are not only shown in the naturally designed habitat sections as part of the exhibition, but are also displayed in parallel in the glass breeding area at the back of the room in purpose-built tanks.



Open the curtain! The aim of the friendly, airy design: to create a desire to enter and approach the animal enclosures.



Relief on the first day: the plan actually seems to be working, with clusters forming in front of the plants for cross-toothed newts and foot-flagging frogs.



How many Lesser Rock Skipper are hiding on this stone? A total of 80 of the little stars moved into the large waterfall paludarium, but not all of them were spotted straight away. In addition to good camouflage, false expectations may also play a role: There must be something bigger in such a large facility ...

The work ultimately cost the zoo two million euros, with Frogs & Friends contributing a six-figure sum for the realisation of the breeding area. In the end, these costs are very reasonable when you consider the complexity of the facility in such a small space. Nine display units plus a 24 square metre, accessible rainforest greenhouse, with each unit having different climate control requirements: From the Titicaca Water Frog aquarium, cooled to 10–16 degrees all year round, to the Lesser Rock Skipper living at around 25 degrees and 98% humidity, everything is included. There are also 36 individual tanks (13 aquariums and 23 terrariums) in the breeding area, which is divided into a cold and a warm area, all connected by ventilation pipes, cooling pipes and pressurised water pipes with osmosis and mixed water, which is prepared in three 500-litre tanks in the feed kitchen. In comparison, the safety technology and heated bathing pools of an elephant facility seem almost trivial ...

Added to this is the elaborate embedding of didactic elements. In addition to texts, illustrations, pictures and models placed directly on or in the walls, four video stations, two audio stations, nine (partly touch) monitors and two projectors were installed – all with the aim of not overwhelming the visitors, but on the contrary to maintain the character of an open, airy space in which the designed animal facilities should be the centre of attention.



The tension eases after the premiere. Architect Adriaan Klein and designer Camillo Kuschel take a deep breath after the opening at the pond behind the Amphibium. Actually, you could carry on right here with the local frog world ...



Frog expert in demand: At the press conference for the opening of the Amphibium, Frogs & Friends Chairman Mark-Oliver Rödel answers questions from media representatives.



Triumvirate of the three large indoor enclosures for Titicaca Water Frogs (*Telmatobius culeus*), Oriental Fire-bellied Toad (*Bombina orientalis*) and small Lesser Rock Skipper (*Staurois parvus*)

Our core exhibition team alone, consisting of Adriaan Klein, Susann Knakowske, Bernd Schultheis, Camillo Kuschel and Björn Encke, put in almost 4,400 hours of work at the end of these three busy years – from the initial considerations to the architectural and didactic concept and the subsequent implementation planning through to realisation. In this way, it was necessary to bring on board and support the numerous colleagues who were involved in the realisation of individual trades. In addition to our permanent employees Heiko Werning, who wrote the majority of the texts, as well as Tina Nagorzanski, Vanessa Dubberke and Johannes Penner, these were in particular illustrator Jonas Lieberknecht, Ines Bärwald and Philipp Schmidt for the graphics, Leendert de Jong and Ed van Megen for shooting and editing the more than 60 videos, Uwe Seidel and Andreas Seidel for the animal models and Benny Trapp for the photographs.

Zoo employee Marco Hustedt was responsible for on-site construction management. He orchestrated the work of a variety of external specialist companies, including those responsible for electrical, heating and ventilation construction, exhibition construction, and all terrariums and aquariums, as well as the associated technology, such as water treatment and microclimate control in the individual facilities.

The design and botanical planning of the individual enclosures was initially carried out by Björn Encke in collaboration with Sabine Hohmann for the botany, who also carried out the final furnishing with natural materials and the planting. Most of the regionally appropriate plants were provided to us by the Wilhelma Botanical Garden in Stuttgart.



Barrier-free insight into a 7 square metre toad habitat. Here, visitors can practise being field herpetologists by counting toads.



The area in front of the entrance to the accessible poison dart frog greenhouse is framed by changing projections of poison dart frogs and their diverse patterns and colours. All of the photographs of the frogs were taken by Benny Trapp.

The artificial rock construction was carried out by Oliver Blomeier and Andreas Gehlen (Sculpturescoop). The zoology department of Hanover Adventure Zoo was involved in all these processes, and a close and trusting working relationship developed with area manager Revin Meier in particular, who was entirely responsible for the design of the breeding facilities.

We are very happy about the trust that the managers of Hanover Adventure Zoo have placed in us, and we are convinced – even after several visits to the current exhibition – that it really works. It is possible to get people excited about amphibians, and this may have something to do with the fact that they lead such a shadowy existence in the public eye. Accordingly, much of what we tell people in the exhibition is surprising and new to them.



The Oriental Fire-bellied Toad immediately accepted their new habitat.



We deliberately moved the video offerings out of sight and into the corners of the exhibition. However, those who discover them and have the time can spend hours deepening their knowledge with the more than 60 videos alone.



The topic of threats to and protection of amphibian life is only addressed in the area immediately in front of the species wall with the slogan 'Keep them safe'. Here, visitors can learn about the process of systematic breeding to preserve species for future generations.



The systematic keeping of Fire Salamanders is recreated and explained in drawers.



Unlike their living counterparts, Uwe Seidel's artistic models are always on display, illustrating the life cycle of Fire Salamanders.



Andreas Seidel passed away on 22 December 2024. The taxidermist at Magdeburg Natural History Museum had a long and friendly relationship with Frogs & Friends. In 2016, he helped develop the Frogs & Friends exhibition at Schönbrunn Zoo, and he also contributed several exhibits to the Amphibium. Here at the opening on 14 May in front of the models of native frogs and toads he created, enlarged three times.



If you want to take a closer look, the Frogs & Friends YouTube channel has a making-of video (available in German and English) about the creation of the Amphibium.

TWO IMPORTANT STEPS FOR THE FIRE SALAMANDER

FEUERSALAMANDER.NET

There has been no positive change in the situation for Fire Salamanders in 2024. On the contrary, animals from Bielefeld and the Kellerwald-Edersee National Park have now tested positive for *Bsal* for the first time. This means that the salamander-eating fungus is continuing to spread in Germany.

To protect the Fire Salamander, we organised a symposium at Hanover Adventure Zoo in April with the aim of establishing a network. Thanks to the support of numerous partners, a comprehensive programme was put together, covering topics such as the situation in the wild, conservation efforts, the status of *Bsal*, possible treatment strategies and veterinary aspects. In addition, initial considerations were made regarding the status of the Alpine Salamander and how an ex-situ programme could be established for this species.

The new network, called Feuersalamander.Net, (in english: Firesalamander.NET) has set itself the goal of developing a national strategy for the protection of this species. The first step will be to facilitate communication and coordination between the various activities by collecting information centrally and making it available.

Philipp Böning (University of Trier) has made himself available as the contact person for research, Johannes Penner (Citizen Conservation) for ex situ populations, and Tobias Kohl (Stiftung Artenschutz) for the broad field of in situ monitoring and conservation efforts. Due to Germany's federal structures, this area is particularly complex and can only be addressed effectively with significant additional personnel. For this reason, Stiftung Artenschutz and Citizen Conservation submitted an initial funding application to the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation in the summer of 2024, but this was rejected at the end of the year.



Participants at the kick-off event for Feuersalamander.NET at Hanover Adventure Zoo | Hanover Adventure Zoo



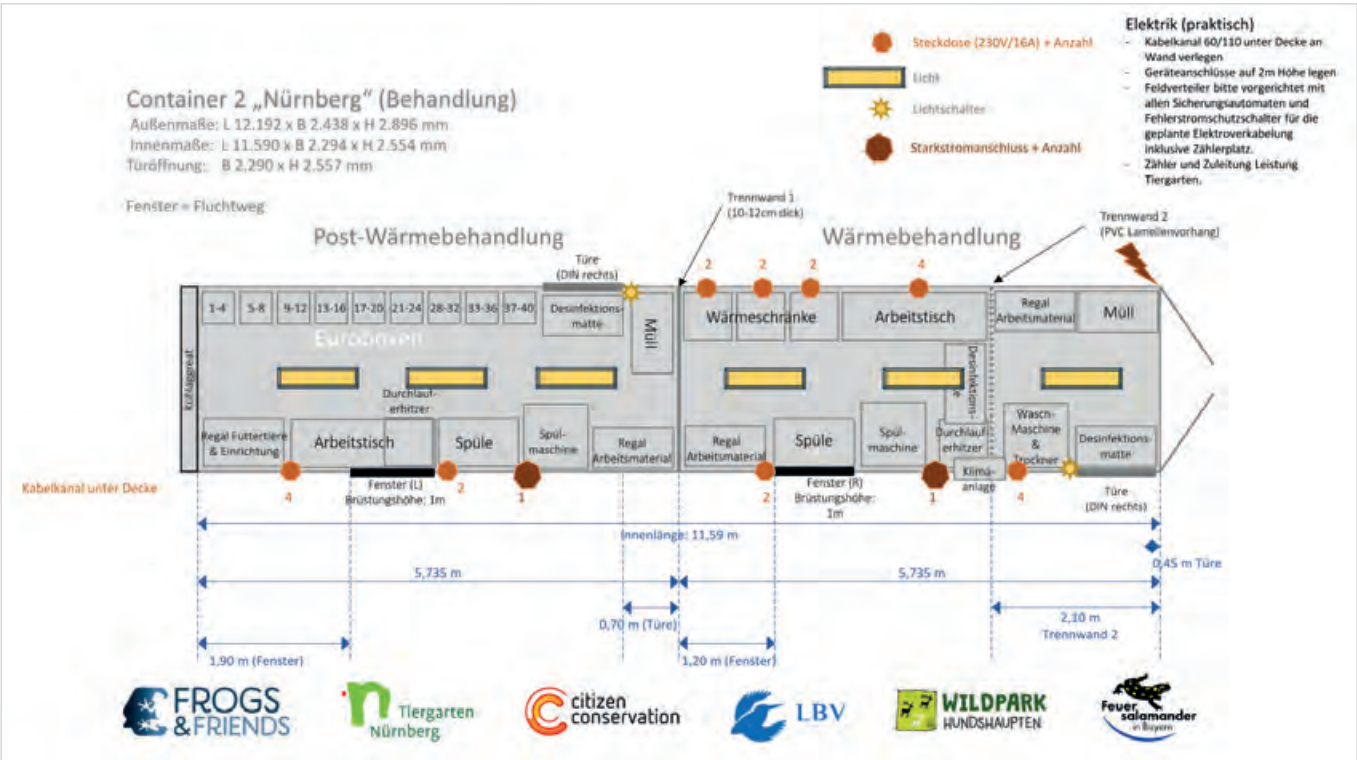
SHIP CONTAINERS FOR THE FIRE SALAMANDER

New opportunities have arisen in 2024 as part of the species conservation programme for the Fire Salamander in Bavaria. Based on the model of the ‘Amphibian Rescue Pods’ from Australia, Central and South America, a concept was developed in collaboration with the LBV, Nuremberg Zoo and Hundshaupten Wildlife Park to make (refrigerated) shipping containers usable for rescuing Fire Salamanders and other amphibians. This has enabled both zoos to create facilities for treating animals infected with *Bsal* and to provide permanent housing for the salamanders.

The container in Nuremberg is divided into two sections. In one half, infected animals are treated with heat, while in the other they are kept in quarantine until it is certain that the treatment has been successful. Only then can the salamanders be distributed to other facilities, such as the one in Hundshaupten.

In 2025, the test is to be carried out in real life, i.e. in collaboration with Stiftung Artenschutz and the Chair of Conservation Biology and Forest Ecology at the University of Würzburg, animals that test positive from the Steigerwald forest are to be brought to Nuremberg, treated there and then permanently relocated to Hundshaupten. The hope is to establish a back-up population in this way – and, in the long term, to be able to provide animals to strengthen affected populations.

A major advantage of containers is that they are standardised. This makes it possible to calculate clear costs that are largely independent of local conditions, and capacities can also be reliably calculated. This gives us a blueprint that can be easily implemented as needed, creating opportunities to preserve the Fire Salamander in all its diversity in the long term.



Schematic planning sketch of the equipment in the container at Nuremberg Zoo for treating infected animals

The toad's habitat in the foreground and the highest peak of the Nimbas Mountains, Richard Molard, in the background in the midday clouds.



ON A TOAD MISSION IN GUINEA

After Frogs & Friends carried out the annual monitoring of Nimbas Toads in Guinea for the first time in 2023 with financial support from the Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations (ZGAP), it was unclear for a long time how things would continue in 2024. Ultimately, the mining consortium SMFG, which wants to mine iron ore in the Nimba Mountains, was persuaded to support the monitoring for 2024 not only logistically but also financially. In addition, the urgency of further discussions with the relevant authorities in Conakry, Guinea, but also with some of the consortium's new managers, was highlighted. Mark-Oliver Rödel and Johannes Penner flew to Guinea in June and met with Joseph Doumbia's long-standing, proven team.

Discussions with SMFG focused primarily on current plans for the initial extraction of iron ore and the associated infrastructure. SMFG's goal is to begin extraction at the so-called Chateau in a first phase at the end of 2025 or beginning of 2026.

The initial focus is not so much on large quantities, but rather on establishing transport routes and infrastructure for export. The aim is to prove that open-cast mining can be carried out not only in theory but also in practice. The planned 'Phase 1' is expected to directly affect only a very small part of the Nimba Toad population. However, the indirect effects, such as possible changes to the local (micro)climate and vegetation at neighbouring sites, remain unknown. The greatest concern continues to be the (accidental) introduction of pathogens – such as the fungus *Bd* – that could harm the toad.



The Nimba-Toad-Team 2025



Searching for toads is exhausting, so there is also a well-deserved lunch break. | Joseph Doumbia



Although it is rare to be on the mountain at night, if you are, you may spot Nimba Toads in the vegetation.



Even pregnant toads are surprisingly nimble in thick grass.



Saber-toothed frogs live in the forest and in the streams of the Nimba Mountains. Their future is also uncertain due to open-cast mining.





'Wild at Home' presentation at the Annual Assembly of Frogs & Friends

WILD AT HOME

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF SUNSHINE

2024 presented us with challenges right from the start. In August 2023, the beta version of 'Wild at Home' went live, but the functionalities were not yet implemented as we needed them to be, and there was still a clear need for improvement in terms of user-friendliness in order to successfully launch the platform on the market.

An initial calculation indicated a funding gap in the low six-figure range, which initially forced us to pause programming. In the end, this turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as it was precisely during this phase that our partner marmalade underwent extensive restructuring and a change of ownership, making it impossible to continue our collaboration seamlessly and forcing us to search for new development partners.

Concurrently, we utilised the time to design a booklet for acquisition purposes, presenting the vision of 'Wild at Home'. Using the example of different user roles, the added value of such a management tool for wildlife husbandry is concretised. The accompanying change in perspective helped to refine the profile of 'Wild at Home'.

CONTENT-RELATED STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

As a concept developer, Bea Seggering put a lot of work into the detailed elaboration of these usage perspectives (personas and use cases) in order to define and coordinate the various requirements more precisely on this basis. The 'Wild at Home' team received support in redesigning the site from front-end designer Sebastian Baumann from miiqo. Since autumn 2024, the two have been working together with their third colleague, Vanessa Dubberke, on setting up a prototype for 'Wild at Home', which is complex to create but which we believe has great potential:

- Visualisation of 'Wild at Home' to better understand the connections within such a complex project and to more quickly assess where there are still obstacles.
- A good prototype also makes technical coordination with programmers much easier and ...
- ... after all, it is also helpful for attracting investors, as it allows the platform's vision to be presented quickly and impressively.

The new look and feel of 'Wild at Home' was presented internally at the Frogs & Friends annual general meeting in an initial, incomplete version of the prototype and was received with enthusiasm – the target vision for our platform was thus visually tangible for the first time.

INTERFACES WITH AUTHORITIES

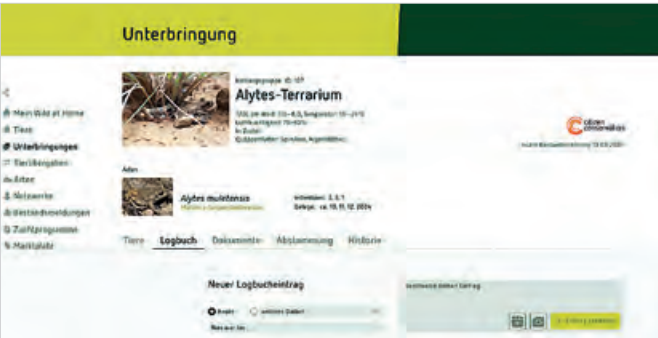
An important point that has been repeatedly raised in numerous discussions with various parties – both private and institutional – is the issue of interfaces with registration offices and ZIMS (Zoological Information Management Software). Both potential users of 'Wild at Home' and the authorities themselves have a strong interest in simplifying the exchange of information and documents. During an exchange of ideas with the responsible authority of the city of Cologne, the options for this were explored.

A technical interface between 'Wild at Home' and the new and future state registration portals such as ASPE or MeIBA would be desirable, but does not appear to be easily implementable under the current – including legal – framework conditions. A specially tailored export function for data and documents from

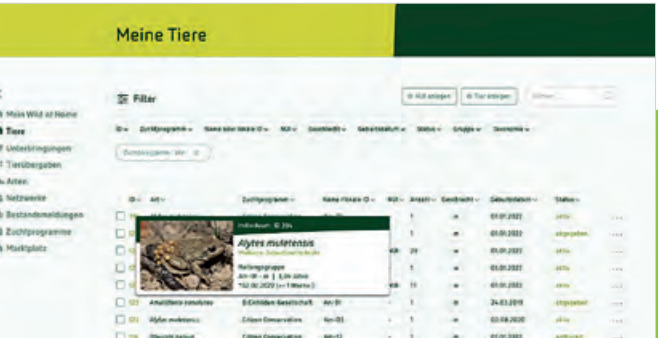
'Wild at Home' could be a good first compromise here, reducing the effort involved in reporting wild animal species for both keepers and authorities. Concrete discussions on this are also to take place with the developers of the official platforms in the further course of the project.

A similar situation exists with regard to ZIMS, the international management platform used by large zoos to maintain their animal inventory data. For zoos that use ZIMS, participating in Citizen Conservation currently means a kind of double accounting, as they have to maintain the data in ZIMS and also report it to CC.

Here, too, 'Wild at Home' aims to offer the most convenient solution possible, and an automated solution is currently not an option either. This is due to technical as well as legal reasons, for example with regard to control over the data. However, we are hopeful that we will be able to find constructive solutions in the future that are in the interests of species conservation.



'Wild at Home' in a new, modern design, which was created by frontend designer Sebastian Baumann



BIG BROTHER FOR FROGS

One of the peculiarities of amphibians is that they usually do nothing, only to suddenly do something spectacular. Unfortunately, you usually miss the decisive moment – and you don't usually have time to sit in front of the frog TV programme for hours every day waiting for something to happen.

With our Big Brother Terrarium, we want to try to shed light on these behaviourally challenging animals. The idea: every corner of the terrarium is monitored by a small, permanently installed camera. This camera is equipped with motion sensors that use AI to learn the difference between a frog's movement and the movement of a leaf or water, and only records and stores video clips in which something froggy is actually happening. Since frogs' movements can be quite sudden, the video data must also be continuously stored on a computer so that when the sensor is triggered, the three seconds before the action are also saved.

Using Smith's Torrent-frog from Guinea as an example, we now want to develop and test the technique so that it can also be used for other species in the future, such as Darwin's Frogs or Nimba Toads, especially since the latter spend large parts of their lives underground.

Saber-toothed frogs live near waterfalls, where they hide in small crevices in the rocks close to the watercourse. Male animals like to occupy smaller caves washed by water in order to attract females and mate inside the cave. Accordingly, we designed the terrarium specifically for this purpose, with the watercourse not only running down the back of the tank, but also washing through two frog caves, which are equipped with infrared cameras.

In December, four young saber-toothed frogs, Smith's Torrent-frogs to be precise, which were bred as part of a project by the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, were finally able to move in, and our media expert Bernd Schultheis began testing the technology and fine-tuning the programming. We very much hope to be able to present the first usable results and possibly even new insights into the hidden life of saber-toothed frogs in the coming year.



Smith's Torrent-frogs (*Odontobatrachus smithi*) have arrived at their new home.



Paludarium structure. Water flows from the lower basin through a connected biofilter and is then pumped upwards. Some of the water runs down the back of the paludarium, while the rest flows through the upper cave, over an overflow and through the lower cave, before returning to the water basin.



The complete setup with live transmission from the five cameras



The strictly nocturnal inhabitants seem to be settling in well to their new habitat.

PRESENTATIONS & ACQUISITION, CONFERENCES

In terms of the number of presentations, the focus of interest in 2024 was on the Amphibium and Fire Salamanders, two core projects of Frogs & Friends. However, 'Wild at Home' and the status of our long-term Nimba Toad project in Guinea were also presented on various occasions. Citizen Conservation plays a more or less significant role in all of the above-mentioned projects through its responsibility for ex situ breeding, but Frogs & Friends bears the main financial responsibility.

A detailed list of lecture activities and event participation throughout the year can be found in the CC section of this annual report on page 38. We were able to present our main topics of the year, the Amphibium at Hanover Adventure Zoo and the protection of the Fire Salamander, at three important conferences, including the DGHT conference in Bonn at national level, the EAZA conference in Leipzig at international level (see page 39) and the World Congress of Herpetology in Malaysia (see next page).



Former and current members of the Rödel Working Group at WCH10 | Frederic Griesbaum



There was also plenty of fun to be had searching for amphibians and reptiles in the run-up to the conference. | Frederic Griesbaum

10TH WORLD CONGRESS OF HERPETOLOGY

The World Congress of Amphibian and Reptile Researchers was held for the tenth time – the most important conference for all herpetologists with an interest in science. The congress takes place only every four years and each time at a different location. In 2024, more than 1,400 herpetologists from over 70 countries met in Kuching in the Malaysian state of Sarawak on Borneo from 5 to 9 August. F&F Chairman Mark-Oliver Rödel and Johannes Penner, Curator for Research and Zoology, were also in attendance. As part of the very intensive programme with up to 14 parallel sessions spread over more than eight hours per day, participants learned about what their colleagues are currently working on, deepened existing contacts and made new ones.

Johannes Penner gave a presentation explaining the current situation of the Nimba Toad and our efforts to protect it. His second presentation dealt with the challenges facing the Fire Salamander, particularly from Bsal, and the extent to which we are committed to protecting this tailed amphibian.

As Björn Encke was unfortunately unable to attend himself, Johannes Penner took over his two presentations and introduced both Citizen Conservation and the Amphibium, which opened in May at Hanover Adventure Zoo, as well as the concept behind it.

Of course, such a trip is also an excellent opportunity to learn about local biodiversity. Numerous exciting discoveries were made during excursions to the surrounding area and further afield, and a few photos were taken as well. After 30 years, the next congress will take place in Europe again, namely in Gijón, Spain, in 2028.



Unfortunately, you don't meet colleagues from Africa very often, so it's all the more delightful when you do bump into them. In the photo next to Johannes Penner: Michele Marina Kameni Ngalieu from Cameroon and Caleb Ofori Boateng from Ghana. | Michele Marina Kameni Ngalieu



Meeting the locals

www.citizen-conservation.org



**Citizen Conservation proudly presents:
Neune auf einen Streich!**

Seit Mai 2024 ist das Amphibium im Erlebnis-Zoo Hannover für das Publikum geöffnet. Auf der 250 qm großen Ausstellungsfläche werden die Besuchenden in die Welt der Amphibien entführt. Neben den naturnahen Habitatausschnitten und diversen digitalen wie analogen vertiefenden Informationen bildet der gläserne Zuchtbaum einen zentralen Blickfang der Ausstellung. Gleich neun CC-Arten werden hier vermehrt und erklärt. Haltung rettet Arten.

Das Amphibium wurde vom Erlebnis-Zoo Hannover in Zusammenarbeit mit Frogs & Friends realisiert.



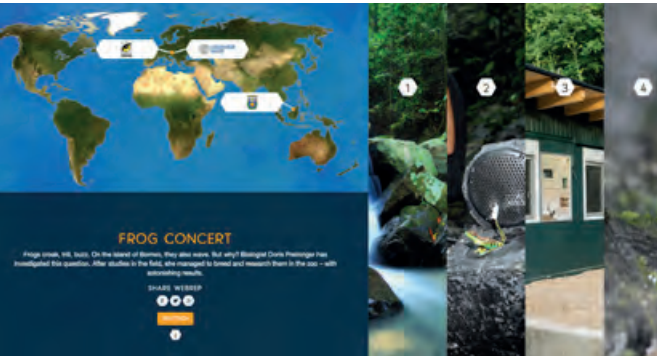
Advertising for the Amphibium in the German specialist press

WEBSITE & GOOGLE ADS

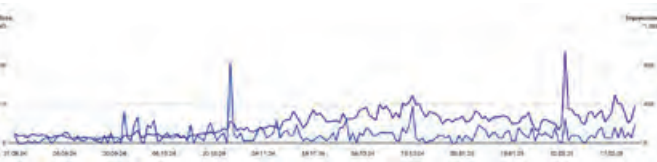
In 2024, we published eight news articles, two new posts under the heading ‘World of Amphibians’, an exhibition page and a web report.

In 2024, we recorded 17,476 visits to the Frogs & Friends website, twice as many as in the previous year. There were also over 135,000 page views, representing an increase of 300%. The split between the English and German language sites was 60% to 40%, a 10% shift towards the German version compared to 2023. This is probably due in part to the opening of the amphibian house at Hanover Adventure Zoo and the accompanying publications on the website – the exhibition page alone had 2,700 views. Only the job advertisement for the commercial manager had even more views on the German site, with 3,200 views. Among the English-language pages, the webdoc clearly ranked first with 7,000 views.

4,200 visitors from Germany landed on our website, closely followed by 4,000 visitors from the USA and 1,700 from Great Britain.



In 2024, a new version of the web report on foot-flagging frogs, as seen in the Amphibium, was published.



Thanks to the newly set up Google Search Console, we can keep track of our website's visibility in search queries. Since the SEO measures catalogue was revised in the middle of the year, frogs-friends.org has actually been appearing more frequently in Google searches.

At the end of 2023, work began on implementing some of the measures outlined in a catalogue of measures to improve the website's performance, which was the result of a commissioned SEO analysis. Page visits via search engines grew by 28% in 2024.

In 2024, we again had a free budget of \$10,000/month for Google Ads campaigns. Only \$15,800 of this was used, which was once again significantly less than in the previous year. The reason for this is the deletion of some outdated ads, which could not be offset by the new ads on the topic of the Amphibium in Hanover.

The two most successful campaigns lead to the English-language homepage of Frogs & Friends (\$4,500) and the webdoc (\$4,100).

NEWSLETTER

In 2024, we sent two newsletters to our subscribers, again in both German and English. In 2024, 131 people subscribed to the German newsletter, while 43 people received the English newsletter last year.

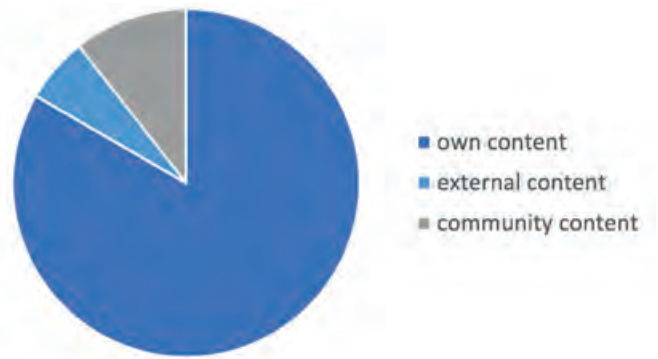
The open rate for the German newsletter is around 61%, with a click-through rate of 12–13%. Both the open and click-through rates are thus significantly higher than expected. Other non-profit organisations that send their newsletters via Mailchimp achieve average open rates of around 40% and click rates of 3.3%. For our English newsletter, the open rate is 49–55% and the click rate is 5–7% – here too, we are above average, albeit below the performance of the German newsletter.



SOCIAL MEDIA

As early as 2023, we began implementing a new social media strategy – moving away from the idea of broadcasting and towards increased playback of our own content. The opening of the Amphibium at Hanover Adventure Zoo helped us to report more about our own work. We were able to draw attention to the new exhibition and the animal species on display there on all social media channels using a variety of formats.

The positive development of the key figures for 2024, with the workload remaining roughly the same, encourages us to continue pursuing the new strategy.



Around 45% of our own content consists of posts for the ‘Frog Friday’ section.

FACEBOOK

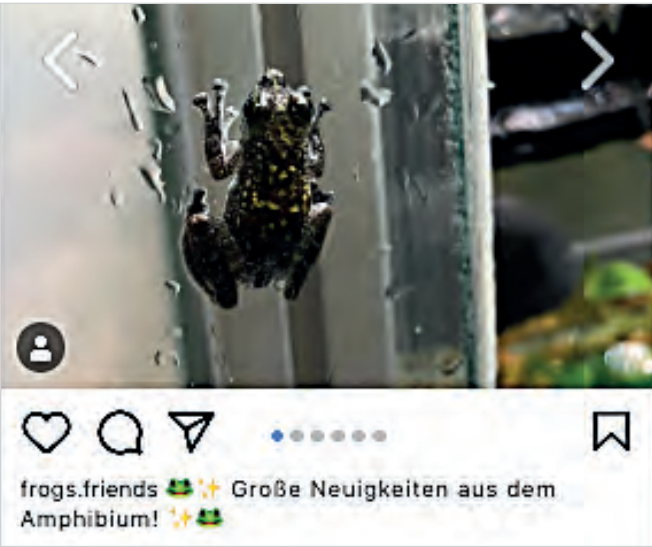
The realignment of the social media strategy led to fewer posts being published. While there were 211 posts last year, the number fell to 167 in 2024. Nevertheless, we were able to achieve a 38% higher reach on the Facebook channel than in the previous year, with 21,453. Profile views even grew by 77% to 5,159 in 2024. At the end of the year, the channel had 4,689 followers, 53 more than in 2023. Frogs & Friends was mentioned in around 25 posts by other accounts.

Titel	Reichweite
Henrik Voges ist Tierpfleger im Erlebnis-Zoo Hannover. Do...	1.981
Große Neuigkeiten aus dem Amphibium! Zum ers...	1.892
Yesterday we celebrated the opening of the amphibium at Ha...	1.707

The three posts with the widest reach were related to the Amphibium and the species featured there.

INSTAGRAM

Fewer posts were published on the Instagram channel this year (from 192 to 146) and more focus was placed on our own content. Nevertheless, the reach increased by an incredible 125% to 20,239. Half of this is attributable to a joint post with Hanover Adventure Zoo. There were also 967 profile views, 15% more than in the previous year, and 100 new followers were gained. Frogs & Friends was mentioned in around 30 posts by other accounts.



A so-called collab post – i.e. a joint contribution by several users – which we published together with Hanover Adventure Zoo, made the news about the foot-flagging frog offspring at the Amphibium a highlight in terms of reach in 2024.



This combination of historical and modern pregnancy tests, which referred to one of the species exhibited at the Amphibium, also achieved a high reach.

TWITTER/X

After we lost access to the analysis data for our X channel in April 2024 without paying for access, and the platform owner Elon Musk made a series of statements that we found unacceptable, we decided to leave in November. The Frogs & Friends page had 1,850 followers at the time.



A final post to bid farewell to Frogs & Friends on X

LINKEDIN

The LinkedIn channel, which has been in existence since October 2023, had 44 followers at the end of 2024. In April, we published our first post on the occasion of the Fire Salamander Symposium at Hanover Adventure Zoo. A total of 14 posts were published, including the job advertisement for the commercial management position. The page achieved 2,130 impressions and reached 1,180 members.



At the beginning of the year, we still received notifications like this on LinkedIn (translated it says: 'Your profile stands out: You have 1 profile view') ... In total, there were approximately 130 profile views in 2024.

YOUTUBE

At the end of 2024, we had 680 followers, an increase of 88% compared to the previous year. The number of followers grew by over 100 in the month following the release of the Amphibium making-of video in May. The English version of the video was by far the most viewed post on the channel, with 16,600 views.

The majority of the viewing traffic here was generated by 'browse features', i.e. algorithm-generated views in which the video is displayed without users having searched for it directly. The English and German versions received 40 positive comments. There were only two negative comments criticising zoo animal husbandry. The chapter of the web rep 'Lurchi in Not' (Salamander in Distress), published in February, in which breeder Uwe Seidel presents his method of keeping Fire Salamanders, also generated many new subscribers. The entire content of the YouTube channel was viewed almost 44,000 times. This figure is 200% higher than in 2023. The playback time increased by over 500% to 1,200 hours. A total of 49 videos were published.



There was much praise in the comments on the making of the Amphibium.

PRESS REVIEW

An Amphibium makes waves – the opening of the exhibition designed by Frogs & Friends has been widely praised in both the regional media and the specialist press, and was featured on three front pages: after the opening, our species wall adorned the front page of the 'Hannoversche Neue Presse' with the slogan 'keeping animals saves species' on the front page of the Hannoversche Neue Presse, our 'Peter Pan' amphibian, the Lake Patzcuaro Salamander, was featured on the front page of 'hallo Wochenende', and in autumn, the specialist magazine Reptilia dedicated its entire cover story to the exhibition and gave Björn Encke the opportunity to present its creation and the ideas behind it in detail in several articles.

In addition, it was above all the founding of Feuersalamander.NET, co-initiated by Frogs & Friends on the occasion of the Fire Salamander Symposium in Hanover (see page 13), that found its way into the press.

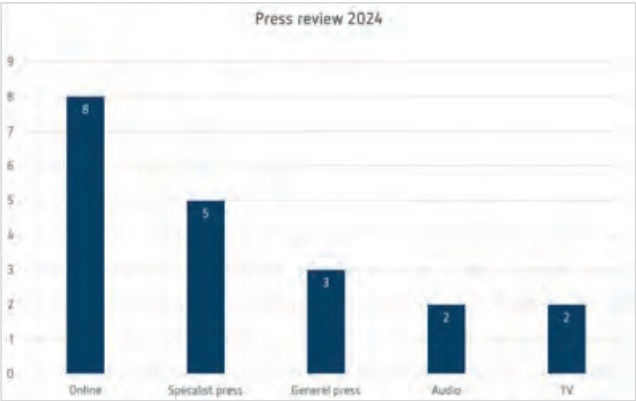


'Keep them safe' on the front page: 'Hannoversche Neue Presse' on 15 May 2024

The local newspaper 'hallo' says 'Welcome'



The specialist audience can delve deeper into amphibians on the cover and 30 pages of articles in Reptilia.





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THE YEAR OF CONSOLIDATION

Following the rapid growth of recent years, which pushed CC to the limits of its capabilities with its relatively small human resources, 2024 was declared internally as the ‘Year of Consolidation.’ Officially, CC has 1.55 staff positions, and with the addition of personnel provided by Frogs & Friends, approximately three staff positions were allocated to CC in 2024. Although this meant that the provision of personnel remained significantly above the €75,000 mark promised in the grant agreement for the third year in a row, it was reduced by approximately €14,000 to around €84,000. Larger new projects or further developments were not pursued; instead, the goal was to work through outstanding tasks and achieve an improved financial basis.

As a result, there were hardly any new species added to CC in 2024. The few new additions were the result of decisions made and preparations made in previous years. Two new species were approved for inclusion, but this cannot take place until 2025.

Following the largely successful completion of the Creatures Podcast and ‘Bestiarium’ (engl. bestiary) book publication, it has not yet been possible to launch a new ‘pro ex situ’ campaign for the wider public.



Small team, big tasks

IMPROVED FINANCING

The consolidation strategy has largely been successful. The redesign of the CC website, which became necessary for technical reasons, was implemented quietly in the background. At the same time, many of the missing subpages on the CC website and the associated recommendations for our species were published.

With the Fire Salamander Symposium at Hanover Adventure Zoo, we pulled off a major event that had been in the planning stages for a year, and with the founding of Feuersalamander.NET, we were also able to lay the foundation for future CC Fire Salamander projects.

We were also able to focus on acquiring additional supporters for CC, because ultimately we can only fulfil our promise of making a measurable contribution to the fight against biodiversity loss if we continue to grow, both in terms of participant numbers and species numbers. To do this, we need more staff. We are therefore delighted that ten more zoos have agreed to support CC directly through annual donations, which enabled us to advertise a new species management position at the end of the year, which will be filled in the first half of 2025.

There are not yet sufficient financial resources for the formal handover of the Wild at Home project, our online population management tool, which has been managed by Frogs & Friends since 2021 (i.e. before the Citizen Conservation Foundation gGmbH was founded). This means that the next round of preparations for the completion of the platform remains the formal responsibility of Frogs & Friends, with CC merely providing financial support.

Haltung rettet Arten

Wer Arten retten will, braucht einen langen Atem – und Geld. Erhaltungszuchtprojekte sind erst dann sinnvoll, wenn sie nicht nur über kurze Zeit, sondern über Jahre und Jahrzehnte fortgeführt werden. Deshalb ist Planungssicherheit entscheidend.

Wir freuen uns über jede einzelne Spende. Unser besonderer Dank aber geht an die Organisationen und Institutionen, die Citizen Conservation im Rahmen von mehrjährigen, festen Zuwendungen die Arbeit für den Artenschutz ermöglichen. Für das vergangene Jahr 2024 möchten wir uns daher herzlich bei diesem wunderbaren Netzwerk aus Ermöglichern bedanken:

In Jahr 2024 betrug die Gesamtsumme an Zuwendungen 290.000 Euro.

Wir bedanken uns bei allen weiteren Spendern und Spenderinnen, die im Jahr 2024 rund 7.000 € zusammen beigetragen haben und freuen uns über jede weitere Unterstützung.

Citizen Conservation Foundation gGmbH
Spendenkonto GLS Bank
IBAN: DE38 4306 0967 1271 7068 00
www.citizen-conservation.org

An end-of-year thank-you advert to our funders in the German specialist press

2ND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

CONCENTRATED EXPERTISE AT THE START OF THE YEAR

The new CC Advisory Board met for the second time on 26 and 27 January 2024 at our offices in Berlin. CC is thus remaining true to the tradition it established during its five-year pilot phase of starting the year by convening its advisory experts for a joint meeting to discuss the current state of affairs and gather input for the coming year and the further direction of its work.

On Friday afternoon, a separate meeting was held with Swiss CC supervisors and Advisory Board members Olivier Pagan and Fabian Schmidt to promote the establishment of CC in Switzerland, which poses some additional hurdles due to our neighbour's non-EU membership. The remaining 30 or so Advisory Board members joined us for the subsequent icebreaker at the Indian restaurant Amrit on Oranienstraße.



Concentrated expertise for species conservation in CC's natural habitat: Advisory Board meeting in Kreuzberg.



The plenary session during the guest lecture by Mona van Schingen-Khan (BfN).

OF BREEDS AND GOALS

At Saturday's meeting, in addition to reporting, the focus was on population management in CC programmes, including the presentation of possible studbooks for initial species. The setting and modification of CC target numbers for individual species was also discussed.

We were also delighted to receive input from outside sources. Mona van Schingen-Khan from the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation reported on current developments in international species protection in the context of the Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), while Martin Singheiser from the Federal Association for Professional Nature and Species Protection (BNA) presented legislative proposals at EU level. Oliver Witte from DGHT/VDA-Sachkunde GbR presented the latest developments in the field of aquatics and terrarium keeping.



Heiko Werning presents one of the studbooks on which the topic of population management was discussed.

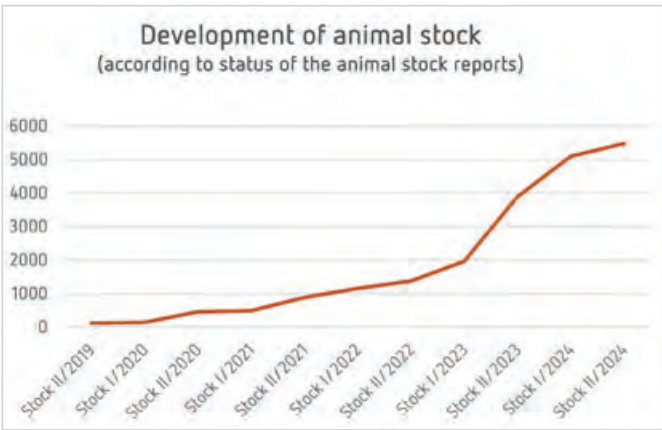


Johannes Penner explains the basics of how the CC programmes goal numbers are defined.

GROWTH IS HARD WORK

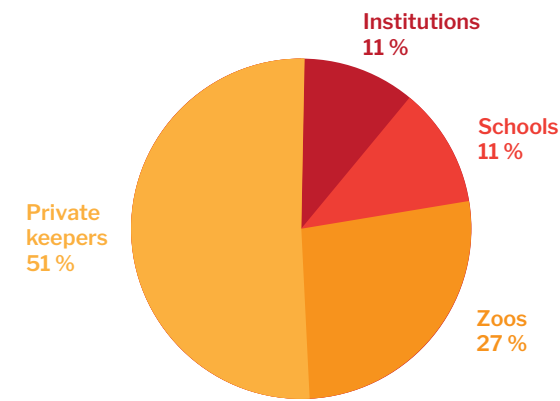
In this 'year of consolidation,' only four species were added to CC's facilities, whose inclusion had already been decided in previous years. At the end of the year, 31 taxa were being cared for. Our personnel capacities were heavily tied up by the growing programmes. No wonder – the number of individuals that had to be recorded and coordinated increased by about 40% over the course of the year, so that by the end of the year there were already 5,595 animals in CC's total stock. All of them have to be entered into our tables with data, animals that are to be handed over have to be distributed and offspring and deaths have to be determined as part of the semi-annual stock reports. Fortunately, the number of participants has also risen sharply, by around 40%. This means that by the end of the year, 222 keepers and animal-keeping institutions had to be looked after – from testing their expertise, discussing the planned facilities for keeping animals and subsequently signing boarding contracts, to answering questions about animal husbandry and finding homes or marketing offspring. As many participants care for several species, the number of animals kept is not identical. By 31 December 2024, it had risen to 362 – an increase of around 55% compared to the previous year.

The high number of around 300 people who would like to care for CC species in the future and who are on our list of interested parties shows the great potential. A number of tasks could not be completed due to a lack of personnel capacity. For example, some species pages with associated husbandry recommendations are still missing from the website. It was also not possible to advance studbooks and measures to improve the content of the programmes, such as revising care recommendations based on additional experience and procuring additional animals from outside sources, ideally from other lines.



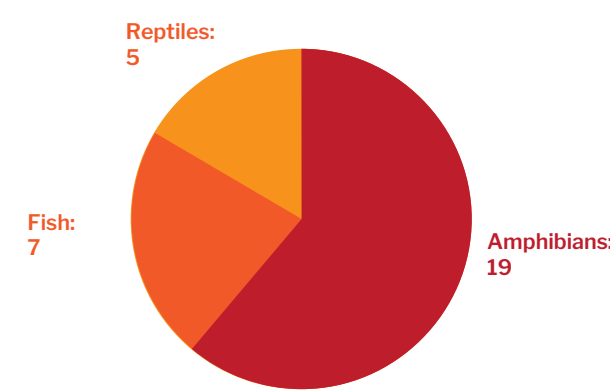
Development of animal populations over time

Distribution by type of husbandry 2024



This is how the animals are distributed among the different types of facilities at CC: private individuals and various institutions.

Numbers of taxa by class 2024



Overview of the number of taxa per animal group

AMPHIBIANS

Two new amphibian programmes, for which the founding animals were already available, were launched in 2024. Small Lesser Rock Skippers bred at Schönbrunn Zoo in Vienna moved not only to the newly opened Amphibium at Hanover Adventure Zoo, but also to a private keeper. With success: both now have offspring. Establishing a stable population will undoubtedly be an even greater challenge for the second new species, as there are only a few founder animals available for Smith's Torrent-frog, some of which have now come to CC from the Berlin Museum of Natural History.

The long-standing amphibian programmes have seen some major successes, but also setbacks and stagnation. The development of the Rio Pescado Harlequin Toad is spectacular. The 30 founding animals were only imported by CC in May 2023. In the following year and a half, a private keeper and two zoos succeeded in breeding so many of the once believed extinct toads that the target number of individuals was already reached by the end of the year, 21 of the targeted 32 husbandries were set up, and surplus animals were marketed.

In contrast, the programmes for the Lemur Leaf Frog, Demonic Poison Frog and Bony-headed Toad have proved surprisingly difficult. So far, breeding them to healthy land dwellers in CC has been difficult or even impossible. This is surprising because all three species were considered to have been 'cracked', meaning we thought we already knew 'how to do it'. This experience underscores the need to train many keepers in breeding, because animals are not machines that do what they are supposed to do at the push of a button (and even machines often do not do what they are supposed to do ...).

The programme for the Mallorca Midwife Toad is the most stable, not only achieving its target numbers but also enabling many keepers to regularly breed offspring, which are now being marketed. Here, we have entered the population management phase with control of the number of animals bred. The programme for our first 'starter species', the Lake Patzcuaro Salamander, is similarly stable. In the case of the Almanzor Fire Salamander, the first offspring have finally been reported.

A new species has been approved for future admission. Several confiscations have resulted in founder animals of the highly endangered Vicente's Poison Frog (*Oophaga vicentei*) arriving at three zoos. With the approval of the authorities, a conservation breeding programme is to be set up for this species, for which specialised private experts are to be consulted within the framework of CC due to the high degree of difficulty involved.

CC continues to work on the import of Nimba Toads and Goliath Frogs, which has been planned for six years now, with the support of Frogs & Friends and the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin (see page 15), but no breakthrough was achieved in 2024 either – the wheels of bureaucracy turn slowly.

FISH

The species portfolio of fish remained unchanged in 2024. The African cichlid *Limbochromis robertsi*, which had already been approved for inclusion in the previous year, could not yet be transferred to CC. The same applies to the Zebra Pleco (*Hypancistrus zebra*), which was newly approved for inclusion.

The existing fish programmes have developed satisfactorily. All seven species have been bred several times in CC. The Charco Palma Pupfish, which was added in 2023, has proven to be particularly popular, with around 50% of the target numbers being achieved in an impressively short time. This is certainly due to the fact that these small, easy-to-keep toothcarps are suitable for small aquariums. The Tiger Limia seems to be following a similar path; it has also been easy to place, while the number of interested parties for the relatively large and aggressive Madagascan Cichlids is manageable. It is therefore all the more gratifying that the target numbers for these three species were nevertheless achieved by around two-thirds, and in the case of the Mangarahara Cichlid, even 100%. The new challenge in species management here is now to maintain a stable population in the long term.

REPTILES

In 2023, it was decided to include five initial reptile species in CC. However, only a very limited number of founder animals were available, so the programmes are progressing slowly. In 2024, the Guimbeau's Day Gecko and Huu Lien Tiger Gecko, the last two species of the starter quintet, moved into CC terrariums. The pretty Guimbeau's Day Geckos have even produced their first offspring. In contrast, the programmes for the Vietnamese Three-striped Box Turtle and the San Francisco Garter Snake are still in their infancy, especially since the turtles do not reach sexual maturity until the advanced age of eight to ten years, so rapid breeding success is not to be expected, as CC only has young animals available. The Nguru Pygmy Chameleon has proven to be problematic. Although an egg clutch was laid by a CC keeper, unfortunately no young animals resulted. No one has yet succeeded in breeding this endangered chameleon in the second generation.

Smith's Torrent-frog
| Joseph Dombia



Lesser Rock Skipper
| Norbert Potensky



Guimbeau's Day Gecko
| Ralph Budzinski



Limbochromis robertsi
| Anton Lamboj



Zebra Pleco
| boban_nz/Shutterstock.com



Rio Pescado Harlequin Toad
| Thomas Ackermann



Charco Palma Pupfish
| Anton Lamboj



Huu Lien Tiger Gecko
| Thomas Ziegler



Mallorcan Midwife Toad
| Arne Schulze



Mangarahara Cichlid



ANIMAL BALANCE SHEET FROM 01.01.2024 TO 31.12.2024

Scientific name	English name	Animals total (m,f,u)	Keepers total	Deaths (m,f,u)	External outflows	New offspring	External arrivals	Goals (animals, keepers)	Status*
Amphibians									
<i>Agalychnis lemur</i>	Lemur Leaf Frog	39 (6,7,26)	7	25 (8,3,14)	0	13	0	225, 40	17%
<i>Alytes muletensis</i>	Mallorcan Midwife Toad	1251 (77,85,1091)	56	147 (5,3,139)	0	781	0	425, 53	100 %
<i>Ambystoma andersoni</i>	Anderson's Salamander	122 (13,19,90)	15	15 (7,5,3)	0	55	13	225, 40	46 %
<i>Ambystoma dumerilii</i>	Lake Patzcuaro Salamander	224 (59,48,117)	30	55 (10,8,37)	0	73	0	225, 40	87 %
<i>Atelopus balios</i>	Rio Pescado Harlequin Toad	314 (13,13,288)	21	146 (2,1,143)	149	580	0	225, 32	83 %
<i>Bombina orientalis</i>	Oriental Fire-bellied Toad	336 (52,36,248)	23	77 (5,4,68)	10	179	1	225, 60	94 %
<i>Ecnomiohyla valancifer</i>	San Martín Fringe-limbed Tree Frog	32 (0,0,32)	2	6 (0,0,6)	0	0	16	225, 56	9 %
<i>Epipedobates tricolor</i>	Phantasmal Poison Frog	31 (4,2,25)	5	22 (0,0,22)	0	1	7	320, 45	10 %
<i>Gastrotheca lojana</i>	Loja Marsupial Frog	12 (5,7,0)	3	0	0	0	0	225, 38	7 %
<i>Ingerophrynus galeatus</i>	Bony-headed Toad	142 (21,9,112)	8	10 (5,2,3)	0	112	0	225, 40	42 %
<i>Minyobates steyermarki</i>	Demonic Poison Frog	38 (10,12,16)	7	2 (0,0,2)	0	4	10	110, 20	35 %
<i>Odontobatrachus smithi</i>	Smith's Torrent-frog	18 (0,0,18)	2	1 (0,0,1)	0	0	19	225, 38	7 %
<i>Phyllobates terribilis</i>	Golden Poison Frog	100 (7,4,89)	12	11 (2,1,8)	0	9	69	225, 70	31 %
<i>Salamandra sal. almanzoris</i>	Almanzor Fire Salamander	35 (17,7,11)	8	1 (0,0,1)	0	12	0	185, 30	23 %
<i>Salamandra salamandra (D)</i>	Fire Salamander	243 (31,20,192)	28	32 (1,2,29)	0	30	93	330, 90	52 %
<i>Staurois parvus</i>	Lesser Rock Skipper	207 (48,40,119)	4	3 (0,2,1)	0	0	210	500, 10	41 %
<i>Telmatobius culeus</i>	Titicaca Water Frog	72 (15,19,38)	9	34 (4,3,27)	0	65	0	225, 45	26 %
<i>Tylototriton vietnamensis</i>	Vietnamese Crocodile Newt	169 (27,37,105)	30	62 (10,5,47)	70	114	12	185, 30	96 %
<i>Tylototriton zieglerei</i>	Ziegler's Crocodile Newt	56 (11,8,37)	12	2 (2,0,0)	0	0	34	185, 30	35 %

m: male, w: female, u: undetermined sex of animals *Status = mean value of the percentage of the targeted number of animals already achieved and the target number of animals

Terrarium for Guimbeau's Day Gecko at CC participants Silvia and Ralph Budzinski's home



ANIMAL BALANCE SHEET FROM 01.01.2024 TO 31.12.2024

Scientific name	English name	Animals total (m,f,u)	Keepers total	Deaths (m,f,u)	External outflows	New offspring	External arrivals	Goals (animals, keepers)	Status*
Fish									
<i>Bedotia madagascariensis</i>	Madagascar Rainbowfish	130 (45,40,45)	14	82 (10,5,67)	0	58	10	192, 16	78 %
<i>Cyprinodon veronicae</i>	Charco Palma Pupfish	172 (8,17,147)	3	5 (2,3,0)	0	148	13	225, 15	54 %
<i>Limia isalai</i>	Tiger Limia	323 (73,62,188)	10	78 (0,2,76)	0	180	172	2000, 20	33 %
<i>Parosphromenus bintan</i>	Bintan Gourami	39 (15,10,14)	4	5 (2,3,0)	0	21	15	100, 15	33 %
<i>Ptychochromis insolitus</i>	Mangarahara Cichlid	324 (38,57,229)	15	159 (6,4,149)	4	9	26	192, 16	97 %
<i>Ptychochromis loisellei</i>	Loiselle's Ptycho	368 (10,9,349)	7	63 (15,16,32)	0	170	45	192, 16	72 %
<i>Ptychochromis oligacanthus</i>	Nosy Be Cichlid	735 (9,9,717)	6	452 (0,0,452)	0	75	16	192, 16	69 %
Reptiles									
<i>Cuora cyclornata</i>	Vietnamese Three-striped Box Turtle	8 (0,1,7)	4	0	0	0	7	100, 50	8 %
<i>Goniurosaurus huuliensis</i>	Huu Lien Tiger Gecko	6 (4,2,0)	3	0	0	0	6	110, 55	5 %
<i>Phelsuma guimbeaui</i>	Guimbeau's Day Gecko	14 (2,5,7)	3	2 (1,1,0)	0	7	9	110, 55	9 %
<i>Rhampholeon acuminatus</i>	Nguru Pygmy Chameleon	21 (13,8,0)	4	6 (2,4,0)	0	0	21	215, 36	10 %
<i>Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia</i>	San Francisco Garter Snake	19 (12,7,0)	7	0	0	0	8	110, 28	21 %

m: male, w: female, u: undetermined sex of animals *Status = mean value of the percentage of the targeted number of animals already achieved and the target number of animals



The Rio Pescado Harlequin Toads got off to a flying start in CC with plenty of strings of eggs. | Thomas Ackermann



The Lake Patzcuaro Salamander was the first species in CC and now regularly produces offspring. | Oliver Hüchel



The first CC turtle is growing and thriving. | Susann Schmidt



Egg production is also gradually starting for the Golden Poison Frogs. | Nicolas Chalwatzis

PRESENT IN EXHIBITIONS AND RETAIL

Due to a lack of human resources, it was not possible to launch a new major campaign in the style of the Creatures Podcast and the resulting book in 2024. However, the goal of ‘pro ex situ’ communication was pursued through other individual actions.

Firstly, we should mention the opening of the Amphibium at Hanover Adventure Zoo by Frogs & Friends. The exhibition ultimately leads – both figuratively and literally – to CC and focuses on the necessity of targeted conservation breeding. A total of nine CC species are presented and bred in the ‘glass breeding room’. CC presences in other zoos and exhibition facilities also help to raise awareness of our cause. For example, Björn Encke gave the keynote speech at the opening of the new Natureum at the Museum of Natural History in Magdeburg, which participates in the CC conservation breeding programme for Fire Salamanders. The exhibition ‘Don’t be a dodo – species in transition’ opened at the ‘Forsthaus Ober-Olmer Wald’ Forest Nature Conservation Centre at Whitsun. Three episodes of our Creatures podcast are available at a listening station in the exhibition.

The aquarium accessories and fish food manufacturer sera has published a species conservation calendar for 2025, which is being distributed in large quantities in pet shops for just one euro – 100% of this money goes to species conservation projects. We are delighted that CC has been selected as one of the ‘flagship projects’ and can look forward to a generous donation and the opportunity to further promote our cause.



The proceeds from sales of the 2025 sera calendar will once again support various species conservation projects – CC is one of them.

SPECIES PROTECTION IS POLITICS

Species conservation is not only a highly political issue in itself, but animal husbandry is also the subject of political debate. CC also sees its role as drawing attention to the necessity of ex situ species conservation in the political discourse. That is why we once again took part in the parliamentary evenings organised by the VdZ and the Central Association of Zoological Specialists (ZZF) in Berlin in 2024 in order to engage in dialogue with political decision-makers and stakeholders.

For the same reason, CC, together with 42 associations and societies, published a position paper initiated by the Federal Association for Professional Animal Welfare and Species Protection (BNA) on the amendment of the German Animal Welfare Act, in which many of the draft’s proposals are supported, but positive lists are clearly rejected.

CC also co-signed an initiative introduced by the BNA at EU level to enact exemptions for the approval of special lighting for animal keeping.



At the ‘Forsthaus Ober-Olmer Wald’ Forest Nature Conservation Centre, visitors to the ‘Don’t Be a Dodo’ exhibition can listen to three episodes of our Creatures podcast. / Forsthaus Ober-Olmer Wald



Networking at the parliamentary evening: Heiko Werning with Marcel Stawinoga from Dortmund Zoo and Sibylle Centgraf from Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen



On the sidelines of the Parliamentary Evening at sunset over the government district: Björn Encke in conversation with CC Supervisory Board members Stephan Hering-Hagenbeck and Gert Emmrich.

HANOVER, LAKE GARDA, BORNEO – CC IS THE KEY

Participating in meetings, conferences and other events, as well as communicating externally through presentations, is very important for networking, further training and acquiring new participants and financial support – and, of course, for promoting CC’s mission. To this end, the team was once again on the road in various constellations in 2024.

The Fire Salamander Symposium co-initiated by CC at Hanover Adventure Zoo from 17 to 19 April is presented on page 13. The result was the founding of Feuersalamander.NET as a central coordination and monitoring centre for measures to save our native salamander. Participation in the annual conference of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) at Leipzig Zoo also proved to be a real breakthrough for CC’s work – see page 39. Particularly gratifying was the invitation from the DGHT city group Mönchengladbach/Krefeld, where Heiko Werning received a donation cheque for €1,000 and was able to recruit committed new supporters for CC.

Managing Director Björn Encke travelled internationally to lay the foundation for CC’s on-site support at the Italian Gecko Association’s ‘Eco Herp’ conference. Such initial structures could lead to the establishment of regional groups in the future. CC already has participants from several European countries outside the German-speaking region. For logistical, linguistic and country-specific reasons, it would be desirable to have contact persons or sub-organisations in the countries concerned if further scaling takes place.

Finally, Johannes Penner presented CC at the most important international scientific meeting of herpetologists, the World Congress of Herpetology – see page 20.

SHARE AND INFORM

An important multiplier effect is the presentation of individual breeding programmes, successes or reports on our activities by third parties, such as CC participants, Advisory Board members or supporters. For example, on 9 November, CC breeders presented their successes with Titicaca Water Frogs and Rio Pescado Harlequin Toads at the annual conference of the DGHT-AG Anuren (German Society for Herpetology and Terraristics, Anura Working Group). At Europe’s largest exhibition for aquariums, terrariums and paludariums, the Dutch ‘Vivarium’, visitors were able to learn about CC on 27 November through the exhibition of Anderson’s Salamanders, which then immediately found a new home in the neighbouring country.

Donations for CC were collected during a species conservation bowling event organised by animal keepers, as well as during an indoor football tournament in Schwerin, where the D2 juniors of Neumühler SV promoted support for the planned breeding station for Fire Salamanders at Schwerin Zoo.



CC tank at the Vivarium trade fair in the Netherlands

Johannes Penner during a talk at the Exotarium at Frankfurt Zoo, which can also be listened to in the zoo’s podcast.



Little frogs make a big difference: The DGHT city group Mönchengladbach/Krefeld presents Heiko Werning with a donation cheque for €1,000 during a lecture on CC. The money was raised from the proceeds of a homemade children’s book about the Phantasmal Poison Frog ‘Rüdiger’. / Stefan Leber



Heiko Werning during an update on CC at the annual conference of our partner DGHT – crochet Goliath assists him.



Dates in 2024 | Events & conferences

3 February | Heiko Werning gives online lecture at the Hessian 'Fire Salamander Species Protection Dialogue'

3 February | Johannes Penner gives a lecture at the meeting of the Professional Association of Zoo Keepers in Frankfurt/M.

1 March | Heiko Werning presents CC at the DGHT city group Mönchengladbach/Krefeld in Willich

16 March | Tina Nagorzanski gives a lecture at 'Working Group on Livebearing Aquarium Fish' in Fulda

14 April | Heiko Werning gives a CC lecture at the DGHT Regional Group East Westphalia-Lippe in Detmold

17–19 April | Fire Salamander Symposium organised by CC in cooperation with Hanover Zoo at Hanover Adventure Zoo

19 April | Heiko Werning reads from 'Bestiarium' and presents CC at the annual conference of the DGHT 'Literature and History of Herpetology and Terrarium Science Working Group' at Allwetterzoo Münster

25 April | Björn Encke gives a keynote speech on the occasion of the opening of the Natureum at the Museum of Natural History in Magdeburg

27 April | Johannes Penner gives a lecture at the conference of the European Garter Snake Association in Marienthal

3 May | Johannes Penner to give a lecture at the DGHT City Group Bern

3–5 May | Heiko Werning with CC lecture and laudatory speech for the Federal Cross of Merit recipients at the Elmar and Ingrid Meier Symposium on endangered turtles at the Allwetterzoo Münster

6–7 May | Tina Nagorzanski at the meeting of the Species Conservation Working Group (VdZ)

7–10 May | Björn Encke at Interzoo Nuremberg

14 May | The CC team at the opening of the Amphibium at Hanover Adventure Zoo

17 May | Johannes Penner presents our Nimba Toad project at the DGHT Münster city group at the Allwetterzoo

24–26 May | Johannes Penner gives a CC lecture at the annual conference of the DGHT Chameleon Working Group

29 May | Björn Encke gives a CC update at the VdZ annual conference at Heidelberg Zoo

30 May | Heiko Werning presents CC at the online regulars' table of the DGHT

5 June | Heiko Werning gives a CC lecture at the 'Presentations from the Zoological Collection' at the University of Rostock

12 June | Björn Encke and Heiko Werning at the Berlin Parliamentary Evening of the VdZ

13–14 June | Johannes Penner at the Fire Salamander Symposium in Hersbruck

21–23 June | Björn Encke with CC presentation at the Eco Herp Meeting in Pesciera del Garda, Italy

27–28 June | Tina Nagorzanski with CC presentation at the Madagascar Freshwater Fish Conservation Workshop in Paris, France

6 July | Tina Nagorzanski with CC presentation at the VDA conference 'Species Conservation in Aquariums' in Thannhausen

5–9 August | Johannes Penner with four presentations at the World Congress of Herpetology in Kuching/Borneo

3 September | Johannes Penner at the 'Fire Salamander Day' live talk at Frankfurt Zoo

18–22 September | Björn Encke, Johannes Penner and Heiko Werning with lectures and CC update at the DGHT annual conference at the Alexander Koenig Museum in Bonn

8–10 October | Björn Encke, Tina Nagorzanski and Johannes Penner with lectures at the EAZA Annual Conference at Leipzig Zoo

10 October | Tina Nagorzanski and Heiko Werning at the Berlin Parliamentary Evening of the ZZF on the topic of 'Animal Politics'

29 October | Johannes Penner in Mainz at the closing event of the project 'Measures to preserve the amphibian species Fire Salamander and crested newt threatened by salamander plague in Rhineland-Palatinate', in which CC Fire Salamanders are managed for conservation breeding.

28–29 November | Björn Encke and Johannes Penner at the VdZ-AGs Species Conservation and Research Conference at Wilhelma Stuttgart

CC GOES EAZA-MEETING

The annual conference of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) took place in neighbouring Leipzig in 2024, giving us the opportunity to participate for the first time with three CC representatives. Around 1,000 zoo employees from all over Europe gathered at the conference centre attached to the zoo from 8 to 12 October to spend four long days discussing zoo-specific topics in numerous parallel sessions and bringing each other up to speed.

At the meeting of the Amphibian Taxon Advisory Group (ATAG), Björn Encke presented the newly opened Amphibium at Hanover Adventure Zoo. The visual comparison of the design and the finished exhibition was particularly well received – it seems to be rather rare for these images to be so similar ...

Curator Johannes Penner had previously presented Feuersalamander.NET, in which CC is to take over the management of ex situ conservation breeding programmes, based largely on the recommendations of the feasibility study conducted by Frogs & Friends. His presentation should have dispelled any remaining doubts – if there were any – about the seriousness and scientific nature of CC's work.

On the contrary: during a break meeting between Johannes Penner and Björn Encke with the deputy chairman of ATAG, Olivier Marquis (Paris Zoo), and the coordinator of the recently launched EAZA conservation breeding programme (EEP) for the Fire Salamander (*Salamandra salamandra*), Laure Garrigues (Amiens Zoo), it was agreed to remain in close contact in the future in order to explore how the possible EEP for Fire Salamanders can best complement the CC programmes within the framework of Feuersalamander.NET.

Progress is therefore being made in terms of constructive cooperation, which is a very good sign for citizen conservation and species protection.



Tina Nagorzanski, Johannes Penner and Björn Encke in front of the entrance to the conference centre at Leipzig Zoo



Were all 1,000 participants at the EAZA conference photographed? Someone else can count them! | Christian Hueller



Johannes Penner in his element: his presentation on the threat status and conservation measures for the Fire Salamander impressed his zoo colleagues.

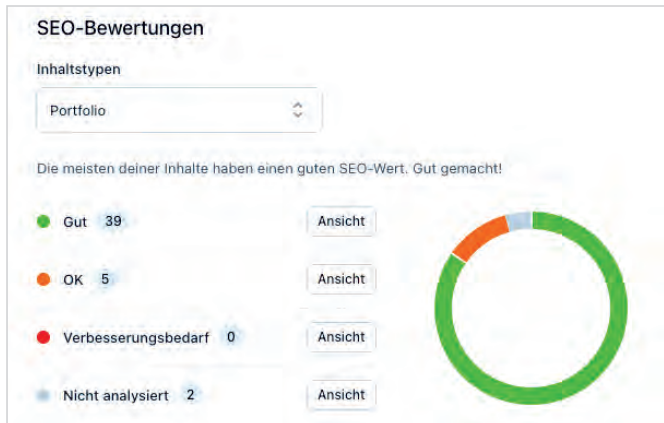


CC appeared not only in our own contributions, of course, but also in presentations by EAZA representatives, such as in the presentation on the reproduction of the Rio Pescado Harlequin Toad, *Atelopus balios*, by Lukas Reese from Karlsruhe Zoo.

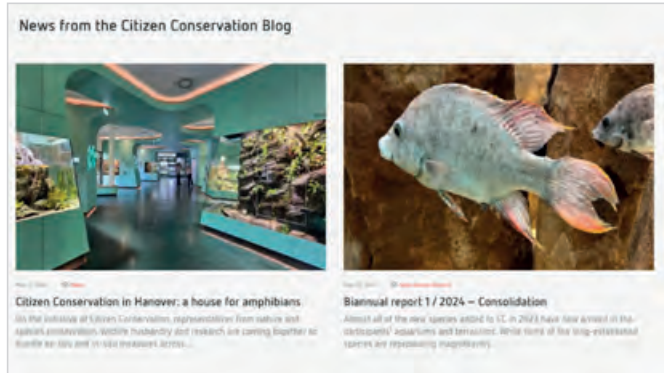
WEBSITE

By May 2024, the redesign and technical streamlining and modernisation of the website had been completed. From then on, new content could be published again, which had not been possible since September 2023 due to technical difficulties. A new feature is a blog, which we intend to use in future to cover a wide range of topics related to CC and species conservation. Currently, the blog mainly features the categories ‘News’, ‘Stock Overviews’ and ‘Stories’ – the latter contains stories about CC keepers and their commitment, which were already available on the ‘old’ website. This year, nine news articles, two half-yearly reports, four species pages and six husbandry guidelines were published.

The site recorded 10,184 users – 50% more than in the previous year – and 37,108 page views, representing an increase of 10%. The most frequently visited page was the overview of our species portfolio (4,370 views), followed by the information page on participating in CC (2,050 views) and the species page on the Golden Poison Frog (1,010 views).



Thanks to an SEO tool, we were able to significantly increase the visibility of our species pages.



News, stock overviews and stories from animal keepers from our first campaign, ‘Keep Them Safe’, can be found on the blog since this year.

Also in the top 10 were the ‘Downloads’ page (640 views) and the news about the species management job vacancy (470 views). Approximately 60% of users accessed the site from German-speaking countries and 20% from English-speaking countries. In total, visits from 124 different countries were recorded. Furthermore, approximately 60% of visitors used a mobile device to access the website. Improvements to the user experience on smartphones and tablets are being made on an ongoing basis, page by page. More than half of visitors accessed the website via search engines, with a dramatic improvement in numbers from mid-May onwards, when the redesign was finally completed. A newly integrated plugin, Yoest, helps us to implement search engine optimisation in the best possible way and certainly contributed to these figures.

NEWSLETTER

In 2024, there was a change to the newsletter. Until then, we had sent out a single newsletter that was bilingual – first came the German section, followed by the English section. However, as with Frogs & Friends, we wanted to send out both languages separately. So, in June 2024, the first newsletter was sent out in the old format one last time to 349 recipients, asking English-speaking subscribers to unsubscribe and re-subscribe to the English newsletter. No one responded to this request by the time the next newsletter was sent out, so in November only a German version of the newsletter was sent out to 358 people.

The open rate varied between 30% and 60%, and the click-through rate between 14% and 20%, with the lower figures occurring when the November newsletter was sent out. As we received feedback that some people did not receive the newsletter in November, it can be assumed that the lower figures may also be related to this.



From now on, the newsletters will be sent separately in two languages. Until summer 2024, the German and English newsletters were still sent together in one email.

SOCIAL MEDIA



What do the Vietnamese Crocodile Newt and the Titicaca Water Frog look like to artificial intelligence when it has to create an image based solely on a description of their appearance?

In 2024, CC’s social media channels continued to focus on publishing its own content from the programme, as well as contributions from the community and news from other ex situ projects.

However, there was one change: the frequency with which we publish new posts has changed. Instead of posting every day and having to actively search for news in the field of ex situ species conservation, we wanted to focus on the successes of our participants and partners. The number of posts published on both Facebook and Instagram decreased by approximately 30%. In addition, no advertisements were placed on either channel. In 2023, paid posts had reached 8,000 accounts in addition to organic reach.

The annual summer special in 2024 was all about AI: with the help of artificial intelligence, we used text descriptions to create images of CC species – and asked our followers to guess which species they were.

FACEBOOK

Citizen Conservation’s Facebook page saw a 14% increase in followers in 2024, reaching 1,964 accounts by the end of the year. While over 220 posts were published in 2023, the new social media strategy resulted in only 145 posts being published. That is 30% less than in 2023. The reach of the published posts, which was 35,000, decreased by the same amount. Page views increased by 17% to 20,100. Despite fewer posts being published, the number of interactions remained roughly the same (7,950). A report from the Fire Salamander Symposium at Hanover Adventure Zoo achieved the highest reach (4,900). The first CC offspring of the Almanzor Fire Salamander at one of our keepers generated the most likes (98 likes). The post about the job vacancy for the position of species manager received the most clicks and was shared the most frequently.



News from our breeding programmes is always particularly well received by the FB community. The post that received the most likes in 2024 was about the first offspring of our Almanzor Fire Salamanders.

INSTAGRAM

A further increase of 20% resulted in 1,534 followers at the end of 2024. Although approximately 60 fewer posts were published, for a total of 130 posts, the reach remained roughly the same at 24,400. Interaction with posts increased by almost 50% to 8,000. The collaboration with Frogs & Friends and Hanover Adventure Zoo on the offspring of the foot-flagging frogs in the Amphibium had the highest reach and the most likes. A post on gender distribution among CC participants on International Women's Day generated the most comments. Under the statistics, which showed that only 20% of animal keepers at CC are women, experiences from the animal husbandry scene were exchanged – mainly by female users.



This infographic, which we published on International Women's Day, illustrates the gender ratio among CC participants. Will things look different in ten years' time?

LINKEDIN

We published our first post on the stock report deadline on 1 March 2024. Since then, the LinkedIn channel has generated 3,690 impressions and 160 reactions. The page was visited 218 times and had 89 followers at the end of the year. A total of 20 posts were published. The most viewed post, with 710 impressions, was about the parliamentary evening in October, to which Heiko Werning and Tina Nagorzanski were invited by the ZZf.

CC species managers Tina Nagorzanski and Heiko Werning with dog and cat at the ZZf parliamentary evening.



YOUTUBE

No new videos were published on Citizen Conservation's YouTube channel in 2024. Nevertheless, 40 new subscribers were gained, bringing the total to 629. Viewing time decreased by 30%. Our content was streamed for a total of 410 hours. The number of video views decreased to 6,290, which represents a 20% decline compared to the previous year. The most-watched video continued to be 'Tatort Wald – das stille Sterben der Feuersalamander' ('Crime Scene Forest' – The Silent Death of Fire Salamanders), followed by two videos from the 'Du und Deine Art @ home' (You and Your Species @ home) series and four episodes from the Creatures podcast.

PODIGEE

No new episodes of the Creatures Podcast were released in 2024. Nevertheless, the podcast achieved 10,700 downloads and streams on Podigee, which was 30% less than in the previous year. With 620 views, the most listened to episode was the last episode of the Creatures Podcast, 'Der Beutelwolf' (The Thylacine), narrated by Heiko Werning. In second place was 'Der Waldrapp' with Wladimir Kaminer and 370 downloads. Third place went to 'Der Pillendreher' (The Dung Beetle) with Julia Mateus (300 downloads). The podcast had 125 subscribers at the last count.



www.citizen-conservation.org

Haltung rettet Arten

Citizen Conservation koordiniert Erhaltungszuchtprogramme für bedrohte Arten. Um diese langfristig zu erhalten, legt CC – nach Einschätzung der wissenschaftlichen Fachbeiräte – die Zielanzahl an Individuen und Haltungen für jede Art fest.



Tylotriton zieglerei

Hochgradig bedroht direkt nach seiner Entdeckung: Zieglers Krokodilmolch. Ein Bündnis aus Zoos, Wissenschaft und privater Terraristik möchte ihn retten.

24 Haltungen fehlen



Atelopus balios

Die Kröte galt als ausgestorben, doch dann tauchte sie nach 15 Jahren wieder auf. Es liegt an uns, sie in unserer Obhut zu erhalten: die Rio-Pescado-Stummelfußkröte.

26 Haltungen fehlen



Ptychochromis oligacanthus

Der Nosy-Be-Buntbarsch: stark gefährdet und nur noch in Kraterseen im Nordwesten Madagaskars zu finden. Umso wichtiger, dass wir ihn in heimischen Aquarien erhalten.

11 Haltungen fehlen

Citizen Conservation Foundation gGmbH
Spendenkonto GLS Bank
IBAN: DE38 4306 0967 1271 7068 00

Wir können das Ziel, Arten zu schützen, gemeinsam erreichen!
Wenn Du Kapazitäten, Sachkunde und die Zeit dafür hast, mitzumachen, melde Dich unter office@citizen-conservation.org

Species in search of species protectors: this is how CC advertises for new participants in various specialist magazines.

PRESS REVIEW

LITTLE CHILDREN, BIG FROGS

This year’s major event in the CC cosmos was, of course, the opening of the Amphibium at Hanover Adventure Zoo, planned and implemented by Frogs & Friends, which focuses on our amphibian conservation breeding programmes. As a result, CC was featured in various publications and TV reports (see page 25) – and our slogan ‘Keep them safe’ even made it onto the front page of the ‘Neue Presse Hannover’.

Several other TV and radio reports gave CC considerable exposure. In the popular SWR quiz show ‘Sag die Wahrheit’ (Tell the Truth), the team had to identify the one true Heiko Werning, who co-founded a species conservation initiative for newts, fish and geckos, by asking questions to three people. Some of our Rio Pescado Harlequin Toads were also in the studio, where they immediately went into amplexus out of excitement, demonstrating the goal of conservation breeding. The ZDF magazine programme ‘Volle Kanne’ focused on keeping exotic animals – as an expert, Prof. Michael Lierz, a veterinary scientist from the University of Giessen, presented CC as an exemplary initiative.

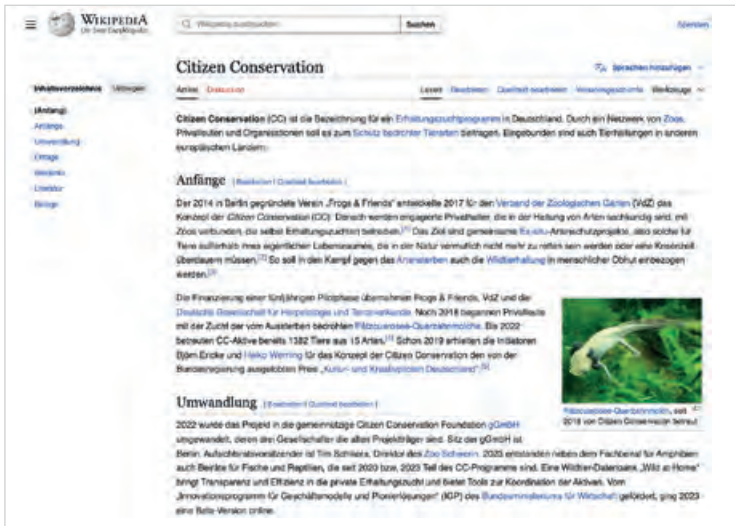
And CC Managing Director Björn Encke chatted for an hour in an interview with Deutschlandfunk Kultur about his childhood at the zoo and the founding of CC. Johannes Penner was invited to talk about frogs on SWR Kultur’s ‘Matinee’ programme, and together with Björn Encke, both spoke in detail about Citizen Conservation and the Fire Salamander in episode 66 of Frankfurt Zoo’s nature conservation podcast ‘Hinter dem Zoo geht’s weiter’ (Beyond the Zoo).



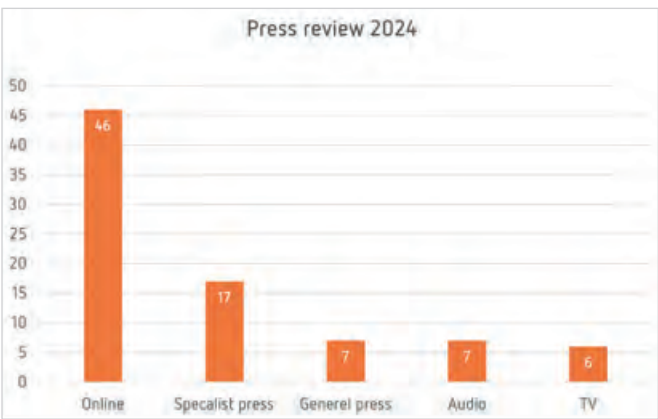
So who is this Heiko Werning?

Time and again, individual breeding successes or a zoo’s new entry into a CC programme resulted in various articles – striking proof of how well CC’s decentralised organisation works in communicating our content. Perhaps the highlight was the wonderful report on WDR television about the breeding of Titicaca Water Frogs at the Bergstraße daycare centre in Aachen: ‘Little children breed big frogs’.

And finally, in October 2024, an article about CC appeared in the German Wikipedia – so now we finally really exist!



Only those who are listed in Wikipedia truly exist



WDR Nachrichten

Kleine Kinder züchten große Frösche in Aachen

Ein Herz für Amphibien

Neu bei Citizen Conservation: der Mauritius-Taggecko, *Phelsuma guimbeaui*

Unter Terrariern ist die Insel Mauritius insbesondere für ihre farbenprächtigen Taggeckos der Gattung *Phelsuma* bekannt. Nach derzeitigem Stand leben noch vier endemische Arten auf der Hauptinsel und eine weitere (*Phelsuma guentheri*) auf den kleinen vorgelagerten Inseln Round Island und Ile aux Aigrettes. Laut der roten Liste der IUCN sind *Phelsuma guimbeaui* und *Phelsuma rosagallie* die am stärksten gefährdeten Arten von Mauritius (Status: endangered). Höchste Zeit also, für *Phelsuma guimbeaui* eine koordinierte Erhaltungszucht aufzubauen. Daher wird die Art nun in Citizen Conservation betreut.

Text und Fotos von Ralph-M. Budzinski

Phelsuma guimbeaui gehört zu den mittelgroßen *Phelsuma*-Arten und hat einen vergleichsweise kompakten Körperbau. Männchen können eine Gesamtlänge von bis zu 15 cm erreichen, bleiben aber meist darunter. Weibchen sind mit maximal 11–12 cm Gesamtlänge generell deutlich kleiner. Die Geschlechter unterscheiden sich in der Färbung nicht. In der Prachtfärbung erstrahlt die Körperoberseite in einem leuchtenden Stänggrün. Je nach Stimmungslage können die Tiere ihre Färbung innerhalb von Minuten auch stark abdunkeln. Das kann so weit gehen, dass die Geckos fast schwarz aussehen. Der Nackenbereich ist meist bläulich gefärbt. Die Zeichnungselemente auf dem Rücken und dem Schwanz zeigen, zumindest bei Wildtieren, ein leuchtendes Rot. Bei Terrariertieren können diese aber auch stark verblasst sein, sodass sie nur rotbraun oder blass orange

Der Mauritius-Taggecko in Prachtfärbung

FULFILLMENT OF THE STATUTORY OBJECTIVES

In the 2024 reporting period, the amphibian house designed by Frogs & Friends at Hanover Zoo was opened after three years of planning and construction. All educational offerings, including over 60 individual videos, were designed and implemented by the association. Online activities (digital services and ongoing editorial operations) continued. These activities are in line with our primary statutory objective of promoting EDUCATION AND POPULAR EDUCATION in accordance with Section 52 (2) sentence 1 no. 7 of the German Fiscal Code (AO).

The donation as a shareholder of Citizen Conservation Foundation gGmbH is a Frogs & Friends contribution to the promotion of science and research as well as nature and environmental protection as a fundraising organisation within the meaning of Section 58 No. 1 of the German Fiscal Code (AO). Indirectly, the commitment to Citizen Conservation thus also fulfils the statutory objectives of promoting ANIMAL BREEDING in accordance with Section 52 (2) sentence 1 No. 23 AO, NATURE and ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION in accordance with § 52 (2) sentence 1 no. 8 AO and ANIMAL PROTECTION in accordance with § 52 (2) sentence 1 no. 14 AO – as well as the objective of promoting civic ENGAGEMENT in accordance with § 52 (2) sentence 1 no. 25 AO for the benefit of the aforementioned purposes.

The donation to Hanover Adventure Zoo to support the creation of the Amphibium breeding area, which is visible to visitors, also contributes to the promotion of animal breeding, nature conservation and environmental protection, as well as science and research as a means of raising funds within the meaning of Section 58 No. 1 of the German Fiscal Code (AO).

The association’s involvement in West Africa serves to establish ongoing partnerships and cooperation projects and thus serves the goal of promoting DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION in accordance with Section 52 (2) No. 15 AO. Thus, all five of the association’s statutory objectives were pursued during the reporting period.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The existing strategic goals will be retained. In addition to the exhibition area, i.e. the design and implementation of digital and physical educational offerings, one focus will be on expanding our cooperation and partnerships in Central and West Africa. Establishing our own breeding and research facility in Germany would be an important step towards permanently fulfilling a bridging function between ex situ and in situ species conservation. On the other hand, it would complement the work on establishing CC over the next few years in a meaningful way.



FINANCIAL REPORT 2024

In the 2024 reporting year, income amounted to €460,157.89 and expenditure to €487,520.48.

The personnel provided by Frogs & Friends for CC amounted to €84,183.49. In addition, €25,000 was provided under the grant agreement. This resulted in a total grant from F&F to CC of €109,183.49 in 2024.

Otherwise, Amphibium Hanover and the wildlife database ‘Wild at Home’ were the projects with the highest financial turnover, totalling just under €173,000.

INCOME STATEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 4 PARA. 3 ESTG AS AT 31.12.2023

Operating income	€460,157.89
Donations & Sponsorships	€351.968,0
Turnover	€74,183.83
Grants	€15,000
Other operating income	€5,232.27
Value added tax	€13,773.78
Operating charges	€487,520.48
Staff costs	€212,392.25
Project costs	€233,523.85
Taxes, insurance, contributions KSK, non-deductible VAT	€18,753.18
Advertising/travel expenses	€8,327.05
Depreciation	€1,793.14
Other operating charges	€10,238.91
Input value added tax	€2,745.51
Value added tax	€-253,41
Result	€-27,362.59

The zoo says thank you. Three years of intensive cooperation, during which Frogs & Friends not only delivered and implemented the concept, but also contributed a financial injection for the Amphibium at Hanover Adventure Zoo. The Amphibium 2024 was also completed financially.

BALANCE SHEET FOR 2024 (AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024)

ASSETS	EUR	LIABILITIES	EUR
A. Current assets		A. Shareholders' equity	
Deptors and other assets	€35,019.77	Share capital	€25,000.00
		Retained earnings brought forward	€64,065.66
Cash at bank and in hand, postal giro and central bank balances, cheques	€111,663.34	Net income for the year	€56,507.46
		B. Creditors	
		Other creditors	€1,109.99
Total ASSETS	€146,683.11	Total LIABILITIES	€146,683.11

The share capital contributions of the three shareholders F&F (€9,375 = 37.5%), VdZ (€9,375 = 37.5%) and DGHT (€6,250 = 25%) totalling €25,000 are held in CC's instant access savings account, as are reserves amounting to €25,055.23.

On 31 December 2024, the current account had a balance of €61,569.46 and CC's PayPal account had a balance of €38.65. CC's total liquidity as at 31 December 2024 was therefore €111,663.34.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT (JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024)

Operating Income	EUR	EUR
Grants		€225,000.00
Donations, Sponsorships		€13,224.54
Sales revenues		€3,013.14
Other operating income		€230.68
Total operating income		€241,468.36
Operating charges		
Staff costs		€106,273.02
Other operating expenses		€78,687.88
Advertising and travel expenses	€23,827.57	
Insurance and contributions	€1,740.06	
Cost sharing for the 'Wild at Home' database	€10,000.00	
Animal transfers and veterinary medicine	€6,317.54	
Production, editing, website	€17,180.00	
Miscellaneous operating costs	€13,664.95	
Non-deductible input tax	€5,957.76	
Total operating charges		€184,960.90
Earnings after taxes		€56,507.46
Profit for the financial year		€56,507.46

In the 2024 reporting year, operating income amounted to €241,468.36, while expenses amounted to €184,960.90. The net profit for the year amounted to €56,507.46.

The balance sheet and profit and loss account do not include the provision of personnel under the management agreement and the grant agreement between Frogs & Friends and CC. The provision of personnel by Frogs & Friends corresponded to personnel costs of €84,183.49 for the whole of 2024. Thus, the actual expenditure for Citizen Conservation in the 2024 reporting year totals **€269,144.39**.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

According to Section § 2.3 of the articles of association, the purposes of 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 support of the aforementioned charitable purposes.

These purposes shall be achieved in particular in accordance with § 2.4 of the Articles of Association through

- 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 threat status or other relevant reasons,
- b) the systematic collection and processing of knowledge about the keeping and breeding of species and making this knowledge available to the general public,
- c) the targeted provision of opportunities for participation and further training with a focus on the keeping and breeding of wild animals, as well as
- d) the design and implementation of research projects in the field of animal and species protection; the results will be published in a timely manner.

In the reporting year, the number of conservation breeding programmes increased from 27 to 31. The number of husbandries increased by 55% to 362. The topic of ex situ species conservation was prominently featured on the website and in social media, as well as in the trade and consumer press. From 17 to 19 April 2024, the Fire Salamander Symposium, initiated by CC, took place at Hanover Adventure Zoo, culminating in the founding of the Feuersalamander.NET network, which initially brought together 26 institutions and organisations from the fields of science, nature conservation, species conservation and zoos. In this respect, all of the purposes set out in the articles of association were addressed thematically in the 2024 reporting year.

FUNDING BODY 2024

Citizen Conservation is a stakeholder-driven initiative. We would like to thank all partners and shareholders who make CC’s work possible through their financial (and, in the case of F&F, personnel) support.

			
€109,183	€50,000	€25,000	€25,000
			
€25,000	€20,000	€10,000	€10,000
			
€5,000	€5,000	€5,000	€5,000
			
€5,000	€5,000	€5,000	€5,000

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING DONORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

Hamm Zoo
Rostock Zoo
Aquazoo Düsseldorf
Galiani Verlag (KiWi)
DGHT Mönchengladbach/Krefeld city group
Kraushaar family
Stephan Bittner
Osnabrück Zoo

SPECIES CONSERVATION IS TEAMWORK

WE THANK OUR PARTNERS

FROGS & FRIENDS E.V.

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Managing Director: Björn Encke

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Local Court

Register number: 33841 B

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