

Germany: EURONATUR – Stiftung Europäisches Naturerbe

Ingeborg Merz, Manager Head Office

October 2007

Fund overview:

Euronatur - Stiftung Europäisches Naturerbe - is a non-profit organization set up in 1987, the European Year of the Environment. The founders were three German organizations for nature and environmental protection, the Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland e.V. (BUND), Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V. (DUH), and Naturschutzbund Deutschland e.V. (NABU). Being aware of the fact that it does not help to care but for the breeding grounds of migratory birds in Germany, whereas their resting places on the migration ways are going more and more lost, the founders wanted Euronatur to carry out nature protection also abroad. Euronatur's main task is to safeguard biotopes of international importance by landscape preservation and/or sustainable regional development, with a special focus on habitats of threatened species, in particular migrating animals. Another important field of activities is environmental political lobbying with view to agriculture and land use.

Euronatur is legally independent from its founders, also with regards to administration, projects and finances. The capital stock given by the founders in 1987 was 150.000 DM. After that, Euronatur had to do all fundraising. Despite of this difficulty, Euronatur succeeded in building up a sound organization working most successfully in almost 20 countries. The work is based on cooperation with local partners. These are NGOs, scientists from universities, local or regional authorities or offices for environmental affairs. Euronatur thus has created a network of experts – a most valuable pool for know-how transfer between the project regions as well as between scientists and NGOs.

The Presiding Committee, consisting of President, Vice-President and three other members – all of them active in an honorary capacity - decides on budget and strategies and controls the management, represented by the Executive Director. He is responsible for finances, projects and administration. Another leading employee is the Director for Environmental Affairs; his office, however, is not established through the legal statutes.

During the first years of Euronatur's existence, financing based mainly on sponsoring cooperations with commercial enterprises, private donations and fines, allocated by judges and prosecuting attorneys. Nowadays fund raising has become much more difficult. Commercial enterprises are less interested in sponsorships for nature protection, and fines are allocated more and more for social purposes. Due to several reasons, procuring of donations also has become harder. Euronatur is very successful in binding its donors, but has little success in winning new ones, even more since we fundraise without aggressive methods such as pressing people by phone, at their doors or on the street. Nevertheless, donations are still the most important financing instrument. On the other hand, our project applications to private and public institutions became more and more successful. We suppose, this is due to the good results of our project work and our reliability regarding reports and proofs of correct use of funds.

Some years ago, the Presiding Committee has decided to put all income by legacies to the capital stock which meanwhile amounts to 1.205.000 Euro. Investment of available assets considers stocks and shares of enterprises dedicated to ecological and sustainable principles.

Euronatur has built up a reliable internal financial controlling system allowing a permanent comparison with the planned figures and showing arising problems at an early stage. The resulting figures are controlled by the Presiding Committee. Besides, the annual accounts are audited by an independent auditing enterprise. The supervisory authority is the *Regierungspräsidium Stuttgart*.

Up to now, Euronatur is one of but two nature protection organizations bearing the DZI-Spendensiegel (the DZI-Spendensiegel is a label honouring the economic and effective use of money for projects and administration, clear and comprehensible book keeping as well as true and meaningful advertising without aggressive recruiting methods). The label was originally created for social facilities and organizations caring for human welfare; since 2004 it has also been open for organizations for nature and animal protection.

Results and impacts:

Euronatur is part of a network for biodiversity, and permanently builds new links in order to strengthen it. The partners are NGOs in almost 20 countries, internationally acknowledged scientists, and institutions such as Bonn Convention, IUCN, GTZ, DED, WWF, German Watch, Pro Specie Rara, Save, and many others. Moreover, we are linked with German associations dedicated to sustainable agriculture and livestock such as AbL (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Bäuerliche Landwirtschaft), IG BAU (Industriegewerkschaft Bauen Agrar Umwelt), Bioland, Neuland, and Schweisfurth Stiftung. In short, these are the topics of our work:

- nature conservation and species protection
- preservation of endangered populations of wild animals and their habitats
- cooperation with competent local and regional partners
- fostering cross-border cooperation of international experts
- participation in planning and implementation of large-scale protected areas
- advice on and monitoring of sustainable regional development in agriculture, tourism, and transport
- networking between active nature conservationists, scientists, politicians and economic enterprises in order to promote biodiversity

- implementation of and support for environmental education measures in order to raise attention for questions of biodiversity and to get moving own activities.

Success and Challenges:

After 20 years of work Euronatur looks back to many a success. Thousands of hectares of land in Middle, Southern and Eastern Europe now are nature reserves, and at many places endangered wild animal populations could be saved, such as the monk seal colonies in the Marine National Park of the Northern Sporades and at the Mauretian coast, the brown bear population in the Cantabrian mountains, and the Bald Ibisses in Marocco. Millions of migratory birds do no more suffer from bird hunting and trapping, or found their resting places restaured and protected by Euronatur projects.

The challenge, however, is at least as strong as before. The European Union, and especially the European countries do not care enough for an ecological use of their subventions, and the new European countries are running the risk to destroy their natural resources by imitating the agricultural mass production as practised in Central Europe – a model creating great problems for farmer families and biodiversity.

Lessons learned:

All Euronatur projects deal with safeguarding and promoting biodiversity. This is the central topic of Euronatur's work. The focus is on wild animals and their natural habitats as well as on methods of landuse allowing high biodiversity, and on old domestic breeds well adapted to special landscapes. As a matter of fact, we experienced that these aims are complementing one another. We therefore nowadays are specialized not only on working for broad scale protected areas and their implementation, but likewise on developing and implementing programmes for sustainable land use in these landscapes. People must not be driven out of their home regions, but they must be shown how to make use of the natural resources without destroying them.

Outlook:

Due to the specialization on nature preservation in Europe, the rich experience, successful networking allover our continent, and the comprehensive know-how in the field of agricultural politics and sustainable land use, Euronatur is urgently needed as skilled activist and spokesman for biodiversity in Europe. During the next years, Euronatur will further intensify the work at the hot spots of European life lines in nature. Obstacles are seen in the still weak financial position that doesn't allow activities in a broader range. Therefore, Euronatur will lay great stress on fund raising with two main aims: increase of the number of donors and of the capital stock.

Basic fund information:

Operational since: 1987

Total income (in US\$):

2002: 2.738.850 Euro (3.742.447 US \$)
2003: 2.748.236 Euro (3.755.272 US \$)
2004: 2.558.739 Euro (3.496.338 US \$)
2005: 2.686.370 Euro (3.670.737 US \$)
2006: 2.938.149 Euro (3.014.775 US \$)

Major revenue sources in (2006 if possible) (with % of fund's total revenues):

donations: 1.077.000 Euro (37 % of total revenues)

support and grants on applications to private and public institutions: 1.290.000 Euro (44 % of total revenues)

Sponsoring by commercial enterprises: 118.000 Euro (4 % of total revenues)

private donations to the capital stock: 185.000 Euro (6 % of the total revenues)

legacies: 104.000 Euro (4 % of the total revenues)

income from assets: 29.000 Euro (1 % of the total revenues)

Total expenditure (in US\$):

2002: 2.663.286 Euro (2.637.827 US \$)
2003: 2.651.409 Euro (3.622.965 US \$)
2004: 2.399.244 Euro (3.278.399 US \$)
2005: 2.546.553 Euro (3.479.686 US \$)
2006: 2.686.018 Euro (3.670.256 US \$)

Total biodiversity expenditure in (2006 if possible) (with % of total expenditures):
2.019.000 Euro (68 % of total expenditures).

Major fields of biodiversity expenditure in (2006 if possible) (with % of total biodiversity expenditures):

All our project work is dedicated to biodiversity. We cannot meaningfully break down the costs to special activities.

Primary disbursement mechanisms in (2006) (with % of total disbursements)

Disbursements to partner organizations are always complementary to our own operative project work. Our partners carry out activities we do not occupy own personnel for. The total sum of disbursements to partners amounted to 876.491 Euro (1.197.664 US \$).

Contact Executive Director: Gabriel Schwaderer

Address: c/o Euronatur
Konstanzer Str. 22

D-78315 Radolfzell
Tel.: +49 - (0)7732 / 9272-0
Fax.: +49 – (0) 9272-22
Email: info@euronatur.org
Web: www.euronatur.org