

# ONE ACTION

---

EMPOWERING CHANGEMAKERS



ANNUAL REPORT

---

2016





# ANNUAL REPORT 2016

<u>EDITORIAL</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>ONEACTION AT A GLANCE</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>OUR PROJECTS</u>	<u>6</u>
South America	6
Asia	10
Europe	14
Other projects	15
Events	16
Future Prospects	17
<u>FINANCIAL STATEMENT</u>	<u>18</u>
Balance Sheet	18
Operating Statement	18
Our Partners	19

# EDITORIAL

*Dear readers,*

*OneAction reached a new milestone in 2016 by completing its fifth year of operation! This important step has given us the opportunity to reflect on the many developments experienced since the beginning: stimulating projects, tangible progress, inspiring encounters, ever more fellow partners and, above all, increasingly encouraging future prospects...*

*The year 2016 has marked an important development for our Association. During a strategic retreat, we reaffirmed our identity and values before drawing the contours of our actions to come and seeing our team grow at headquarters. In the field, our projects have also undergone significant development. In Ecuador, the e-learning teacher-training platform has taken off, and our Amazonian partners have reaped the first benefits of our joint project. In Asia and in GreenAction's gardens, our efforts have led to encouraging results while our projects incubator attracts new, enthusiastic and determined souls, celebrating the mission of OneAction: to facilitate the transition from intention to action.*

*This is the whole point of our commitment. We seek not only to improve the lives of many, but also to sow seeds of inspiration, so that young and not-so-young individuals yearning to create change in our societies take action and unveil a new potential which, in turn, may spark new vocations.*

*We invite you to join us in this exciting adventure, helping ideas become reality, together. It is precisely in this spirit of collaborative effort that OneAction is written as a single word: it is about a lot more than just a single action!*

Jan Isler, Founder and Director





## ONEACTION AT A GLANCE

OneAction works with individuals, communities and organisations looking to act for a more sustainable world. By sharing its know-how and experience, OneAction amplifies their impact and strengthens their capacity to act: we accompany them on the journey towards self-sufficiency and sustainable change.

In collaboration with our partners, we develop projects with a strong social and environmental impact, while providing self-financing mechanisms that guarantee their sustainability. OneAction works mainly in the fields of education, training, sustainable agriculture, reforestation, renewable energies and social entrepreneurship. Currently, our actions are concentrated in Switzerland, South America and Asia, in countries where we benefit from a well-established network of contacts and an excellent knowledge of the socio-cultural, political and environmental context.

# OUR PROJECTS

## SOUTH AMERICA

### Holistic Education in Quito, Ecuador

OneAction has been working for more than four years with the Institute of Research, Education and Public Promotion of Ecuador (INEPE). The Institute's school has more than 600 pupils between the ages of 0 and 18 years, most of whom come from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Internationally recognised, its holistic education model is based on intellectual, emotional, social, physical, artistic and creative development. The students are actively involved in the learning process, and traditional subjects are supplemented by a wide variety of activities ranging from sustainable agriculture and reforestation, to tai chi, meditation and music.

While this educational model has had exemplary results, its funding still depends on foreign aid; this is why OneAction is working with the Institute to both spread their model and generate financial and food resources to increase their autonomy. Since 2012, we have supported the development of their organic garden - including funding the construction of an agricultural processing and education centre, greenhouses and reservoirs - and the dissemination of its educational model, by helping INEPE develop an e-learning teacher-training platform.





In 2016, OneAction funded the development of new terraces dedicated to the production of Andean crops (quinoa, amaranth, peas, etc.), completed the construction of a new music department, and equipped the refectory with professional utensils.

In addition, OneAction facilitated the creation of a new Early Childhood Education course on the e-learning platform. This resulted in an increasing number of teachers trained in the INEPE methodology. To date, nine courses are offered on the platform hosted by the National Polytechnic School in Quito. Our shared aim is to see the creation of 40 additional courses over the next five years.

We are measuring the long-term impact of the platform and describing the best practice for wider dissemination in collaboration with the Geneva-based Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies. In 2016, a preliminary field study conducted by four students confirmed the positive impact of INEPE's holistic education methodology. The study will be used as a basis for conducting an in-depth impact assessment after the completion of the project.





## Alternative Sustainable Livelihoods in the Amazon, Ecuador

Since 2013, OneAction has been working with the community of Cajabamba II and the local organization Vitalideas to create sustainable economic alternatives to deforestation for local people. The initiatives adopted contribute, on the one hand, to preserving natural resources and, on the other hand, to stimulating community cohesion.

OneAction initially accompanied the locals in the development of their ecotourism activities by participating in the construction of a community shack near an ecolodge. The latter is intended to accommodate tourists and to serve as a restaurant where the inhabitants offer meals based on local recipes and products. As part of this project, tourists are also invited to participate in reforestation and sustainable agriculture efforts in the region.

In 2015, OneAction launched a community plantation of taro (*colocasia esculenta*), a tuber used in Amazonian cuisine, after the women of the community expressed a wish to start a local crop production with the aim of creating new alternative means and to strengthen the solidarity between participants. At the beginning of 2016, six women from the village got together and prepared half a hectare of land for taro seeding. Six months later, they were able to harvest 32.2 tons, corresponding to 91.7% of the usual yield of taro in the Amazon. They were able to share USD 2,500



and devote USD 1,595.50 to the expansion and continuity of the project. At the end of the year, eleven other women joined the initiative and began cultivating on another parcel of land. This project is already self-sufficient and will enable women to carry on cultivating taro in the years to come, thus generating significant new income for the community. OneAction will continue to consider other initiatives in favour of the people of the Amazon.

## **Reforestation Northern Ecuador**

In order to restore natural ecosystems, protect biodiversity and create jobs for local communities, OneAction supports reforestation activities in the mountainous and biodiverse regions of Morochos and Pucará in Northern Ecuador. In partnership with CanopyCo - a local organization founded in 2008 - and community members, we reforest abandoned farmlands to prevent desertification and nutrient loss in soils.

In order to create a solidarity movement around reforestation, we provide any interested individual or institution with the opportunity to plant trees in exchange for a certificate. Through sales and awareness campaigns, OneAction was able to continue its reforestation activities. In the future, we intend to find ways to make the project more self-reliant, for instance by moving towards long-term partnerships with various companies.





## ASIA

### **Alternative Sustainable Livelihoods in Mondulkiri, Cambodia**

OneAction and its local partner, the Cambodian Rural Development Team (CRDT), successfully completed the second year of their project in the Seima protected forest in Mondulkiri. This three-year project aims to increase the food security and self-reliance of local communities, mainly from the Bunong minority, while reducing deforestation activities in the region.

During the second year, the field team continued to support the eight community-based organizations (CBOs) in three villages to assist them in their daily administrative tasks, resource management, and various projects aimed at improving the well-being of the community. Thanks to the rotating funds injected and the various training programmes, CBO members have been able to develop many income-generating activities



using sustainable methods, particularly in agriculture and poultry farming. In order for beneficiaries to earn a steady income from their activities, OneAction and CRDT have launched initiatives to ensure direct market access, including the development of production plans, the promotion of products in the central market, the creation of a community team responsible for the identification of real prices, and the launch of a forum for dialogue between sellers, buyers and the provincial department of commerce. In parallel, the field team successfully carried out a number of environmental awareness activities, enabling local authorities to receive expert advice on the management of their homes, waste disposal and external environment.

Over the next year, we will continue to monitor and optimize the management of CBOs and revolving funds, and will closely support participants in the implementation of their sustainable activities and related action plans.





## Bodh Gaya, Bihar, India

In Bihar, OneAction supports Gyan Niketan, a school of more than 300 students from the most disadvantaged castes, broadening their educational perspectives and improving their well-being. In this fifth year of collaboration, OneAction has ensured the efficient functioning of the school and the development of its infrastructure, while encouraging students' creativity. In particular, we continued our efforts against malnutrition through our One Meal a Day programme, which provides a daily balanced meal for all students.

In 2016, OneAction gave the opportunity to two volunteers to get involved in the school. They have contributed to teaching English, as well

as developing creative, social and environmental activities. In keeping with its fundamental principles, OneAction wishes to enable the institution to become self-sufficient.

This year, we set the groundwork for the creation of a vocational training centre. We plan to provide work opportunities to the disadvantaged youth of the region, and also to generate a stable income to cover all the operational costs linked to the Gyan Niketan school. Our local partner has already acquired the land and the implementation plan is being finalized. This centre will allow young people who have completed their compulsory schooling to have access to two different practical courses culminating in a diploma recognized at the national level.

Next year, we wish to not only optimize the strategy of the training centre and launch the administrative procedure for state accreditation, but also raise funds for the construction of the building in order to enable the Gyan Niketan School to sustain itself as quickly as possible.





## EUROPE

### GreenAction, Switzerland

OneAction launched its GreenAction project to create and develop tangible connections between children and nature. We aim to raise awareness among children on the various environmental challenges and to empower them by giving them the necessary tools to face those challenges. During the school year 2015 – 2016, we conducted a pilot project at La Côte International School in Aubonne, accompanying students and teachers in several sustainable development actions.



The various environmental and social initiatives carried out by the students up to June have enabled them to considerably reduce food waste within the school. In only three months, it decreased from 10 kg per week to only 3 kg. In addition, a compost and vermicompost production was integrated into the natural sciences course, and the students organized an efficient waste sorting system. In order to teach concrete ways to look after plants, from seeding to flowering, and to give students the opportunity to interact directly with nature, OneAction also helped the school develop a sensory garden and a pedagogical garden.



During this pilot year, we noted that the teachers and students prioritized the creation of these gardens. Therefore, from September 2017 onwards, the GreenAction programme will

offer the future partner schools a gardening project as well as workshops related to it. OneAction will oversee every step of the creation and management of the gardens in the schools, involving the children in the process from the very start. We will also ensure the sustainability of the project by equipping pupils, teachers and school staff with the necessary tools to follow up and sustain the garden themselves in the long term.

## OTHER PROJECTS

### OneAction Platform

Our platform for personal initiatives is bearing fruit. Indeed, the Dream Up for Ecuador project, managed by a young Swiss teacher accompanied by OneAction, is now evolving autonomously, and two new projects have been launched on the platform this year. OneAction first welcomed the initiative of a Graduate Institute student and supported her in the development of her project ‘Solèy la Fè Manje’. The project aims to diversify the local economy and strengthen food security in Anse-à-Pitres, Haiti, by setting up a solar-powered mill that grinds the Mayan walnut fruit, well-known for its nutritive properties. In addition, OneAction decided to accompany the project of a Swiss woman in partnership with the Colombian organization Hábitat Sur. This NGO works for sustainable development in the Amazon through cultural initiatives, community development and ecotourism activities, and the construction of sustainable housing. The aim of the project, supported from Switzerland, is to set up a waste recycling system in Leticia, an important capital along the Amazon river.





## EVENTS

In 2016, OneAction participated in several events including presentations, workshops and debates. In particular, we contributed to a round table organized at the Impact Hub in Geneva on the dysfunctions related to development aid and the recommended solutions. In March, a OneAction event, organized in collaboration with the Café Voisins and with the participation of the I-Twins group, gave us the opportunity to present our projects and raise funds.

Over the summer, and as part of our GreenAction project, we conducted an environmental education workshop for the children of the Banque du Léman clients. They had the opportunity to build an insect hotel and learn more about plants.

Thanks to the enthusiasm of one of our volunteers, who is also an employee of the Lagardère group, OneAction won the Jean-Luc Lagardère Foundation's Commitment Award for its project in Bodh Gaya and attended the awards ceremony in Paris in November 2016.

Finally, at the end of the year, we participated in the traditional Course de l'Escalade in Geneva, and inaugurated the Banyan Circle, a circle of support for OneAction's projects, which

offers its members the opportunity to meet and share their experiences. The members are chosen from diverse backgrounds based on their humanitarian motivations and attachment to OneAction's values. They meet once a year during an exceptional gathering. The first edition was organized at the Auberge de Confignon, and our partner H  bitat Sur was introduced to the participants. The evening was a success, and the Banyan Circle has come to represent the diversification of our revenue.

## **FUTURE PROSPECTS**

In the near future, OneAction aims to cover a significant portion of its fixed costs through one or more social entrepreneurship projects. To this end, we have recently set the stage in the Amazon for an ambitious project to ethically, biologically and sustainably commercialize Ecuadorian chocolate in Switzerland. The project has several components: the production of cocoa tree plants in order to provide economic alternatives to Amazonian farmers; fair trade by limiting market intermediaries as much as possible and, in the process, giving a voice to local farmers; training on sustainable techniques among producers; cocoa transformation made in Ecuador; and the sale of couverture chocolate to various chocolate confectioners in Switzerland, before potentially creating our own brand. This project is currently under development and is generating great enthusiasm at OneAction!



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(Our accounts are graciously audited by the company Baker Tilly Spiess SA.)

<b>BALANCE SHEET (CHF)</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets	54'889	23'963
<i>Current account</i>	53'773	23'054
<i>Prepaid expenses</i>	1'116	909
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54'889</b>	<b>23'963</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Short-term liabilities	153	2'921
<i>Other creditors</i>	153	2'861
<i>Deferred income</i>	0	60
<i>Accrued liabilities</i>	0	0
Equity	54'736	21'041
<i>Retained earnings</i>	21'041	6'343
<i>Profit</i>	33'695	14'699
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54'889</b>	<b>23'963</b>
 <b>OPERATING STATEMENT (CHF)</b>	 <b>2016</b>	 <b>2015</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Totally or partially earmarked revenues	342'363	266'250
<i>Projects in Asia</i>	60'820	117'337
<i>Projects in South America</i>	251'543	133'912
<i>Projects in other geographical areas</i>	30'000	15'000
Non-earmarked revenues	161'548	100'218
<i>Membership fees</i>	1'500	960
<i>Donations</i>	117'350	59'464
<i>Self-financing projects</i>	42'698	39'795
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>503'910</b>	<b>366'468</b>



## EXPENSES

Expenses related to projects	(319'171)	(229'996)
<i>Projects in Asia</i>	(70'567)	(89'508)
<i>Projects in South America</i>	(233'266)	(104'953)
<i>Projects in other geographical areas</i>	(10'257)	(10'091)
<i>Fundraising projects</i>	(730)	(14'193)
<i>Wages related to field work</i>	(4'350)	(11'250)
Expenses related to the headquarters	(151'044)	(121'774)
<i>Wages</i>	(132'616)	(109'722)
<i>Operating costs</i>	(18'393)	(11'975)
<i>Financial costs</i>	(36)	(77)
TOTAL	<b>(470'216)</b>	<b>(351'769)</b>
PROFIT	<b>33'695</b>	<b>14'699</b>

## OUR PARTNERS

Among the many actors who supported OneAction in 2016, we would like to thank the City of Geneva; the foundations Covalence, Credit Suisse, Mahmoud Shakarchi pour Œuvres et Bienfaisance, and Jean-Luc Lagardère, under the auspices of the Fondation de France; the associations SER and Fengarion; the companies Baker Tilly Spiess, Banque du Léman and Brief'R Formations; and the communes of Meyrin, Collonge-Bellerive and Plan-les-Ouates. We were also fortunate to have the exceptional support of Dr. Peter Forstmoser and Delphine Oltramare. We would also like to thank our volunteers at headquarters, as well as our loyal partners in the field: INEPE, CanopyCo and Vitalideas in Ecuador; Hábitat Sur in Colombia; Sadhana Forest in Haiti; Gyan Niketan Charitable Trust in India; and CRDT in Cambodia. Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to Christiane Buschman and to all our members and volunteers for their hearty commitment.

# ONE ACTION

---

## ONEACTION ASSOCIATION

Rue du Conseil-Général 14  
1205 Geneva, Switzerland  
+41 (0)228080589  
[www.oneaction.ch](http://www.oneaction.ch)  
[info@oneaction.ch](mailto:info@oneaction.ch)

## DONATE

Banque Cantonale de Genève  
Quai de l'Île 17 - CP 2251  
1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland  
IBAN : CH3600788000050302242  
BIC/SWIFT : BCGECHGGXXX

## BECOME A MEMBER

If you wish to become a member of OneAction, please address a letter to the Association's headquarters or send us an email in which you express your desire to join us. Make sure to include your postal address.

## PARTICIPATE

You can help OneAction in Switzerland or abroad as a volunteer or by submitting your own project. More information is available on our website: <http://oneaction.ch/participate/>

