

ONE ACTION

EMPOWERING CHANGEMAKERS



ANNUAL REPORT

2017



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EDITORIAL

Dear readers, once more, this last year has been more than encouraging for OneAction's progress! Our Association is growing in leaps and bounds; its projects thriving and its reach ever expanding...

In the field, from Ecuador to Cambodia, seeds continue to sprout and generate promising results. These experiences validate the fact that intention, converted into action, can change the course of things... This inspiring observation has led to the rise of new activities: in the Colombian Amazon, our partner Hervé Neukomm has begun the construction of an innovative watercraft aimed at raising awareness of existing regional challenges amongst the local population; and in Ecuador, OneAction has laid the groundwork for its first big income-generating project: the creation of organic, ethical and sustainable chocolate!

At headquarters, OneAction has elected a new president and has hired a new project manager for its GreenAction project. During 2017 we also pioneered a new event in Geneva: driven by a will to create synergies, OneAction joined hands with the NGO Karuna-Shechen, founded by the Buddhist monk Matthieu Ricard, to organize a concert at Victoria Hall. In front of nearly a thousand people, the celebrated Venezuelan pianist Gabriela Montero fully embodied OneAction's spirit: the gift of self, thoroughness and spontaneity, spiced with a small touch of madness which amuses, moves and inspires.

OneAction continues to shape its destiny with passion and joy; our open hearts is the compass that guides us, while the beauty of sharing is the motor that drives us. Come and join us in this wonderful adventure of cultivating human connections with confidence and tolerance!

Jan Isler, Founder and Director





ONEACTION AT A GLANCE

OneAction works with individuals, communities and organizations looking to work towards a more sustainable world. By sharing its expertise and experience, OneAction amplifies the impact of its partners and strengthens their capacity to act: we accompany these actors on the journey to self-sufficiency and sustainable change.

In collaboration with our partners, we develop projects with strong social and environmental impacts, while providing self-financing mechanisms that guarantee sustainability. OneAction primarily focuses on education, training, sustainable agriculture, reforestation, renewable energies and social entrepreneurship. Our current efforts are concentrated in regions where we benefit from a well-established network of contacts and an excellent knowledge of the socio-cultural, political and environmental context, namely Switzerland, South America and Asia.

OUR PROJECTS

SOUTH AMERICA

Holistic education in Quito, Ecuador

OneAction has been working for more than five years with the Institute of Research, Education and Public Promotion of Ecuador (INEPE). The Institute's school welcomes close to 700 pupils from babies to students 18 years of age, most of whom come from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Internationally recognized, 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.

With the aim of helping INEPE become more autonomous and spread its educational model, OneAction supports the Institute in two main areas: the improvement of its organic garden and the promotion of its pedagogy. Since 2012, OneAction has funded the construction of an agronomy shack, greenhouses and water reservoirs, as well as terraces dedicated to the production of Andean crops. Our association also supports INEPE in the development of its infrastructure. Amongst other things, we have facilitated the construction of a new refectory, a professional kitchen and additional music classes.



In order to spread INEPE's model, OneAction is working towards the development of an e-learning platform to train Ecuadorian teachers from the private and public sectors. In 2017, it participated in the creation of four new courses that will soon be available on the platform hosted by the Polytechnic School of Quito. To date, INEPE counts around 300 participants annually for the 9 courses currently offered online.

Within the organic garden, the reservoirs are working at full capacity and provide opportunities for students to cultivate quinoa and peas on the Andean terraces. Furthermore, thanks to the participation of two OneAction volunteers, INEPE has created an ecotourism trail whereby visitors discover the school, its reforestation efforts in the neighbouring metropolitan park and a small museum on Andean culture and the history of the area. The path reaches the agronomy shack where a wood-fired oven is used to prepare home made pizzas with delicious tomatoes from the garden. As of now, OneAction also supports the production of natural fertilizer, which will be used for various crops in the garden and will be sold on the market.





Reforestation Northern Ecuador

In order to counter the devastating effects of deforestation and unsustainable land use in Northern Ecuador, such as desertification and nutrient loss in soils, OneAction has been collaborating with CanopyCo, an Ecuadorian organization, to reforest and restore abandoned farmlands over the past five years. Throughout 2017, we offered the opportunity to individuals and institutions to plant trees and thus contribute to protecting biodiversity, replenishing aquifers, and creating jobs for local communities. With the objective of multiplying our reforestation efforts and guaranteeing the project's sustainability, we are currently looking for long-term partnerships with several companies. We have recently initiated a dialogue with a parcel shipping company based in Geneva and wishing to limit its environmental impact. A joint project is in development that will offer the company's clients the opportunity to plant a tree in Ecuador for every parcel shipped.

Alternative sustainable livelihoods in the Amazon, Ecuador

OneAction has been collaborating since 2013 with the community of Cajabamba II and the local organization Vitalideas to create sustainable economic alternatives to deforestation for the local people. More specifically, OneAction is helping community members reinforce their ecotourism activities and develop local agricultural crops. On one hand, these initiatives contribute to preserving natural resources, while on the other they stimulate community cohesion. After building a community shack intended to accommodate tourists and offer them Amazonian meals, OneAction supported a group of women from the village in launching a community plantation of taro (*colocasia esculenta*). As a result, the group, baptised *las Amazónicas*, produced its first harvest in 2016, yielding 322 quintals on half a hectare of land and generating close to USD 4,100 in sales. In 2017, the group cultivated a total of 1.5 hectares of land and was able to sell its produce for nearly USD 10,000 with a profit of USD 2,140. Following this success, a second group of women, *las Orchideas*, began planting taro on half a hectare. Last year this project became self-sufficient and now enables women to generate sustainable revenues for their community. OneAction is pleased to have observed that this project also contributes to stronger solidarity and community cohesion. Next year, we will continue to monitor the community's activities and consider other initiatives in favour of the people of the Amazon.





ASIA

Bodh Gaya, Bihar, India

In Bihar, OneAction is supporting Gyan Niketan, a school of more than 300 students from the most disadvantaged castes, broadening its students' education and improving their well-being. In this sixth year of collaboration, OneAction ensured the efficient functioning of the school and the development of its infrastructure, while also encouraging students' creativity through arts and crafts and dance workshops. Moreover, we have continued our efforts against malnutrition through our One Meal a Day programme which provides a daily balanced meal for all students. This collective meal is also used as an opportunity to raise the students' awareness on basic hygiene practices and waste management.

To contribute to reducing Gyan Niketan's dependency on donations, we are working towards the implementation of a vocational training centre. This centre will provide work opportunities to the disadvantaged

youth of the region while concurrently generating a steady income to cover the operational costs linked to the school. In 2018, we expect to launch the construction of this centre to allow the vocational activities to start at the beginning of 2019. Taking into account the projections on the number of participants, by its third year, the training centre should be able to generate enough revenues to cover its own functioning costs as well as those of the Gyan Niketan school.



Alternative sustainable livelihoods in Mondulkiri, Cambodia

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

Throughout the third year, the field team continued to support the eight community-based organizations (CBO's) in three villages, offering further trainings linked to resource management. Amongst other things, members have continued to benefit from rotating funds injected in the CBO's to develop their income-generating activities such as vegetable growing and poultry raising, using sustainable methods. Various workshops on improving the quality of products, food processing and targeted production plans have increased the beneficiaries' food security and facilitated their access to local markets. Finally, thanks to various dialogues



and meetings organized with local authorities, the CBO's have been able to strengthen their links with municipal representatives and obtain responses to their various official requests. The project is now coming to an end.

In 2018, we plan to conduct a final impact study of the project in partnership with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. The goal of this study is to measure the project's efficacy in light of

the pre-established key indicators, and to draft recommendations for beneficiaries, as well as for CRDT and other NGO's working in the same sector. Following this study, we wish to handover the project to the CBO's that will continue to manage the rotating funds and to develop alternative sustainable livelihoods.

EUROPE

GreenAction, Switzerland

GreenAction was born in 2015 with the aim of nurturing tangible links between children and nature. This project, built around the creation of pedagogical gardens, seeks to provide students with the opportunity to contribute to addressing current environmental issues while developing their solidarity, self-esteem and social and emotional capabilities. In September 2017, OneAction launched GreenAction in two schools in Geneva by setting up and cultivating eight kitchen gardens with



the participation of 120 students and eight teachers. Within the two institutions, École Moderne and Institut Florimont, our project manager created gardens and conducted various environmental workshops, such as planting strawberries and building insect hotels, worm farms and birdhouses. Furthermore, our project manager created a Green Team and raised awareness of seasonal fruits and vegetables. Throughout these activities, students and teachers were able to learn together, observe nature, help each other out and act in key areas of the environment and sustainable development.

In 2018, we will pursue our activities linked to the pedagogical gardens, including the selection, preparation and planting of seeds with the students. We will also ensure that the project becomes self-sufficient by providing a solid framework with user-friendly tools for teachers, students and school staff for them to continue to sustain the garden independent of OneAction in the long term.



OTHER PROJECTS

OneAction platform

Within the framework of our platform for personal initiatives, OneAction is accompanying a former student of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva in the development of her project *Solèy La Fè Manje*. In 2017, we helped her enhance a fundraising proposal that ended up generating the necessary funds to start the project's construction works. Her initiative aims to diversify the local economy and improve 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. The construction of the mill should start during the first half of 2018.

Furthermore, OneAction is collaborating on the project of a Swiss woman in partnership with the Colombian NGO Hábitat Sur. The field team in Colombia has already begun the construction of a 'boat-cycle', or a watercraft driven by two cyclists. This social enterprise aspires not only to

create jobs, but also to give the opportunity to the local youth to discover the beauty of the Amazon and to connect them to their environment. In doing so, we hope to encourage them to become better environmental advocates while keeping them away from drug trafficking activities.

EVENTS

In October 2017, OneAction joined hands with the NGO Karuna-Shechen, founded by the Buddhist monk Matthieu Ricard, to organize a concert by the renowned Venezuelan pianist Gabriela Montero at Victoria Hall in Geneva. This first common adventure was a great success. In front of nearly 1,000 people, Gabriela passionately shared her immense talent as an interpreter. She then delighted the audience with her improvisations, as well as the sudden hilarious entrance of the surprise guest and brilliant violinist Aleksey Igudesman. Following this achievement, we have decided to make this concert a biennial event called 'OAKS' as a reference to the initials of both NGO's. Moreover, OneAction participated in several local events, such as the traditional Escalade Race in Geneva's Old Town and the Communities Fair of the International School of Geneva which offers opportunities to students to participate in actions of solidarity.





FUTURE PROSPECTS

In the foreseeable future, with the aim of applying the concept of self-sufficiency to itself, OneAction aspires to cover a significant portion of its fixed costs through one or more social entrepreneurship projects. With this in mind, OneAction has set the groundwork for an ambitious initiative aiming to commercialize an organic, ethical and sustainable chocolate in Switzerland.

To begin this project, we are collaborating with members of the Commodity Trading Alumni Association (CTA). Our goal is to create a social enterprise that will empower small cocoa producers while also support OneAction.

Through this enterprise, OneAction wishes to go beyond the notion of fair trade and maintain the main portion of the product's added value in the country of origin. This idea includes processing the final product locally in order to limit the number of intermediaries in the production chain, therefore bringing consumers closer to producers. Furthermore, we plan to use a model inspired by the principles of a circular economy. Hence, in addition to a percentage of its turnover being donated to OneAction, the company wishes to redistribute its profits equally between farmers, employees and shareholders.

To start with, the enterprise will collaborate with farmers in Ecuador, a country where OneAction already benefits from long-term and trustworthy partners. We have chosen to support these producers in cultivating the indigenous cocoa variety *Nacional*, using agroforestry techniques.

In 2018, members of the project will join forces with a Swiss chocolate maker and organize a trip to Ecuador to identify future partners and gather the necessary information to launch the project.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

OPERATING STATEMENT (CHF)	2017	2016
REVENUE		
Earmarked revenues	298'825.05	342'362.53
<i>Projects in Asia</i>	12'937.45	60'820.00
<i>Projects in South America</i>	231'005.75	251'542.53
<i>Projects in other geographical areas</i>	54'881.85	30'000.00
Non-earmarked revenues	263'010.81	161'547.93
<i>Membership fees</i>	900.00	1'500.00
<i>Donations</i>	209'552.69	117'349.57
<i>Self-financing projects</i>	52'558.12	42'698.36
TOTAL	561'835.86	503'910.46
EXPENSES		
Expenses related to projects	(339'412.84)	(319'171.39)
<i>Projects in Asia</i>	(29'977.99)	(70'567.31)
<i>Projects in South America</i>	(235'983.02)	(233'266.43)
<i>Projects in other geographical areas</i>	(48'451.83)	(10'257.20)
<i>Self-financing projects</i>	(0.00)	(730.45)
<i>Wages related to field work</i>	(25'000.00)	(4'350.00)
Expenses related to the headquarters	(173'733.21)	(151'044.35)
<i>Wages</i>	(162'767.51)	(132'615.55)
<i>Operating costs</i>	(10'964.50)	(18'392.95)
<i>Financial costs</i>	(1.20)	(35.85)
TOTAL	(513'146.05)	(470'215.74)
PROFIT	48'689.81	33'694.72

BALANCE SHEET (CHF)	2017	2016
ASSETS		
Current assets	107'074.77	54'889.16
<i>Current account</i>	102'891.67	53'772.71
<i>Prepaid expenses</i>	789.00	1'116.45
<i>Other receivables</i>	3'394.10	0.00
TOTAL	107'074.77	54'889.16
LIABILITIES		
Short-term liabilities	3'649.00	153.20
<i>Other creditors</i>	469.00	153.20
<i>Deferred income</i>	3'180.00	0.00
Equity	103'425.77	54'735.96
<i>Retained earnings</i>	54'735.96	21'041.24
<i>Profit</i>	48'689.81	33'694.72
TOTAL	107'074.77	54'889.16

OUR PARTNERS

Among the many actors that supported OneAction in 2017, we would like to thank the foundations Green Leaves Education Foundation, Mastepe, Covalence and Institut Robin des Bois; the association SER; the companies Baker Tilly Spiess, Banque du Léman and Hindi Bazaar; and the commune of Bernex. 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. We also extend our gratitude to the schools Institut Florimont and École Moderne, as well as to our members and volunteers for their warm commitment.

ONE ACTION



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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: www.oneaction.ch