

ONE ACTION

EMPOWERING CHANGEMAKERS

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

In 2021, OneAction celebrated its first ten years of existence! This is an important step for our team, which has worked hard to ensure that our activities continue to run smoothly during a period marked once more by the pandemic. Above all it is a milestone that invites us to take a step back, to assess our impact, to calibrate our strategy and to draw the contours of our future.

During this first decade of activity, OneAction supported the development of numerous educational and environmental projects both locally and abroad; established multiple partnerships with the private and academic sectors; created a brand of ethical chocolate; and built its expertise in ecosystem and biodiversity restoration. It is on this last field that our association intends to focus for the coming years, backed by solid experience gained in rich and varied contexts, and convinced of the importance of offering the most impactful solutions possible.

With this aim in mind, and driven by a growing desire to act locally, OneAction initiated a collaboration with the City of Geneva to support its tree-planting programme on its territory. We invite you to discover this local, participative and promising project in the following pages.

OneAction is thus entering in a new development cycle. By offering its services, it adds another string to its bow and becomes a project leader as well. A new and welcoming breath of fresh air to continue to reflect beyond the traditional boundaries that exist between the different sectors. It is in this role of catalyst that our association thrives to inspire, bring together and act.

Jan Isler, Director





ONEACTION AT A GLANCE

OneAction is a non-profit NGO based in Geneva and founded in 2011. It aspires to encourage the transition from intention to action, accompanying individuals, communities and organisations in the process of creating or developing projects with a high social or environmental impact. To this end, OneAction contributes to conceptualizing, monitoring and increasing the outreach of various projects, while working with its partners to set up self-financing mechanisms.

OneAction works for the protection of nature, food security, access to education and social entrepreneurship. For several years, it has been developing a centre of expertise in reforestation and the restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity. In order to develop holistic, participatory and comprehensive solutions, OneAction brings together a variety of actors and facilitates collaboration between civil society, the private and public sectors, and the academic world.

OUR PROJECTS

100,000 trees planted

46,000 participants
trained in agroforestry
techniques

184,000 beneficiaries

Humus and humans, India & Kenya

Our partner

The NGO Sadhana Forest, based in Tamil Nadu in the South of India, has been working for 20 years in land restoration and water conservation.

The project at a glance

The project aims to deploy an innovative reforestation model, based on Sadhana Forest's proven techniques and on the application of the latest biogeochemistry findings on the unique properties of **oxalogenic tree species**, which contribute exceptionally to soil regeneration and CO₂ sequestration.

Our initial goal is to **plant 100,000 trees in two regions** particularly affected by climate change and the impact of drought and land degradation: Tamil Nadu in **India** and Samburu and Kajiado counties in **Kenya**, where Sadhana Forest has operational bases.

In concrete terms, this means **creating mobile reforestation units** - a team of experts in a truck equipped with water and seedlings - that travel from village to village to train the most vulnerable communities in accessible reforestation and irrigation techniques, while enabling them to plant native, oxalogenic, drought-resistant species that produce edible fruits, nuts and leaves on their own land. This initiative aims to make these lands fertile again, to enhance food security and to prevent environmental migration. It will also allow us to expand the research on oxalogenic species and then extend the model to other regions of the world.



The year 2021

In Kenya, a truck was converted to accommodate a dormitory for the reforestation team, two 1,500-litre water tanks, planting tools and hundreds of seedlings. The nursery was also expanded and hosts now **18 native species**. After being blocked for several months of waiting due to movement restrictions caused by the pandemic, the field team was able to start activities in the first villages in Samburu County in September. Since then, **more than 5,000 trees have already been planted** despite the severe water deficit in the region. In this context, the most popular species among the participants so far is *Moringa stenopetala*, known for its fast growth and nutritious leaves.

In India, the preparatory phase was also delayed due to the numerous sanitary restrictions and began in May along with the development of the nursery and the training of the reforestation team. Tree-planting activities will start in 2022.





The wings of knowledge, Quito, Ecuador

9 years of collaboration

700+ students

3,000+ people
trained on an *e-learning*
platform

Our partner

The Institute of Research, Education and Public Promotion of Ecuador (INEPE)

offers an internationally recognized holistic educational and holistic model based on the student's intellectual, emotional, social, physical, artistic and creative development.

The project at a glance

In order to **help the INEPE become more autonomous and to spread its educational model**, OneAction supports the Institute in two main areas: the development of the school's infrastructure and the promotion of its pedagogy. Since 2012, OneAction has financed the construction of an agronomy shack, greenhouses, reservoirs, Andean crop terraces, a composter, a new dining hall, a kitchen and additional music rooms. To spread the INEPE's educational model, OneAction has participated in the development of an e-learning platform for teachers in the private and public sectors: a programme that has already trained close to 3,000 people.

The year 2021

The Institute had to remain closed for the whole year due to pandemic-related restrictions. However, teachers **continued to provide virtual classes** while offering psychological support to students and their families. In addition, concerts, ceremonies and events were organized throughout the year to strengthen the relationship between teachers and students, to encourage dialogue and to ensure the inclusion of families in their children's learning process. In addition, the Institute participated in workshops directed towards the conceptualization of national public policies within four educational networks.



In order to provide for the needs of approximately 150 families extremely affected by the health crisis, the Institute continued to distribute essential supplies. In the Institute's garden, several activities also took place, such as the preparation of garden beds and greenhouses, the production of natural compost and the planting and harvesting of vegetables. In the adjacent Metropolitan Park, students identified areas for reforestation, analysed soils and surveyed native trees, and collaborated with the International Association of Students in Agricultural Sciences to set up a tree nursery.

As part of its environmental activities, **the Institute received the Quito Sostenible award**, distributed since 2015 by the Municipality of Quito's Secretariat of the Environment and which recognises citizen organisations for their effective environmental practices. Finally, the INEPE officially became a Higher Pedagogical Institute, giving it the status of the country's **first University of Popular Education**.

From the source to the forest, northern Ecuador

9 years of collaboration
5,000 trees planted each year
1,700 beneficiaries

Our partner

The organisation CanopyCo, founded in 2008, aims to recreate native tree forests on private and community lands degraded by intensive agriculture, and to raise awareness among local communities.

The project at a glance

To counter and prevent the devastating consequences of deforestation and unsustainable agriculture in northern Ecuador, OneAction and CanopyCo are **reforesting and restoring abandoned agricultural lands in one of the ten most biodiverse ecosystems in the world**: the Alto Chocó. To replenish the region's biodiversity, CanopyCo is creating tree nurseries with native species. These nurseries, managed by local people, represent a stable source of employment and provide saplings for the **plantation of more than 5,000 trees each year**.

In parallel to reforestation activities, our local partner empowers communities to manage their land sustainably. In particular, it provides trainings in agroforestry, organic farming and the production of natural fertilizers.

In addition, **it runs ecological clubs** to raise awareness among local children on the Intag Valley's extremely rich biodiversity, by teaching amongst other things, techniques to analyse the water quality of rivers. Finally, it administrates a legal support fund that enables more than 700 members of local communities to assert their constitutional rights guaranteeing the protection of their land, which is under severe threat due to the many mining projects in the region.

The year 2021

Throughout 2021, CanopyCo's four tree nurseries were refurbished to accommodate nearly 20,000 saplings to plant in three different ecosystems. Farmers in the region also received support to sustainably produce organic passion fruit and *naranjilla*. In addition, **five natural fertilizer production centres** were set up to provide the opportunity to produce and use effective organic fertilizers, fungicides and pesticides.

Moreover, **20 people** completed a permaculture certification programme on the farm. **The 8 ecological clubs have welcomed nearly 200 participants** and have received an award for excellence in environmental education from the Provincial Government of Imbabura.

Finally, the legal support fund contributed to **the adoption of the precautionary principle by the country's constitutional court**, which, in an unprecedented ruling, ordered concessionary companies to refrain from carrying out their activities in the protected forest.

OneAction is currently exploring the viability of a **new hydropower project** with local cooperatives to produce green energy for the entire valley, representing both an economic alternative to mining and a source of income to fund sustainable development activities.





Reunite under the canopy, Geneva, Switzerland

25% of canopy above the City of Geneva by 2050

15 plots of land targeted for a potential one-year pilot project

Our contact organisation

The **Service des Espaces Verts et de l'Environnement** of the City of Geneva (SEVE) is responsible for the management of green spaces, the conservation of existing plants and urban flowering in order to improve the citizens' quality of life in the city.

The project at a glance

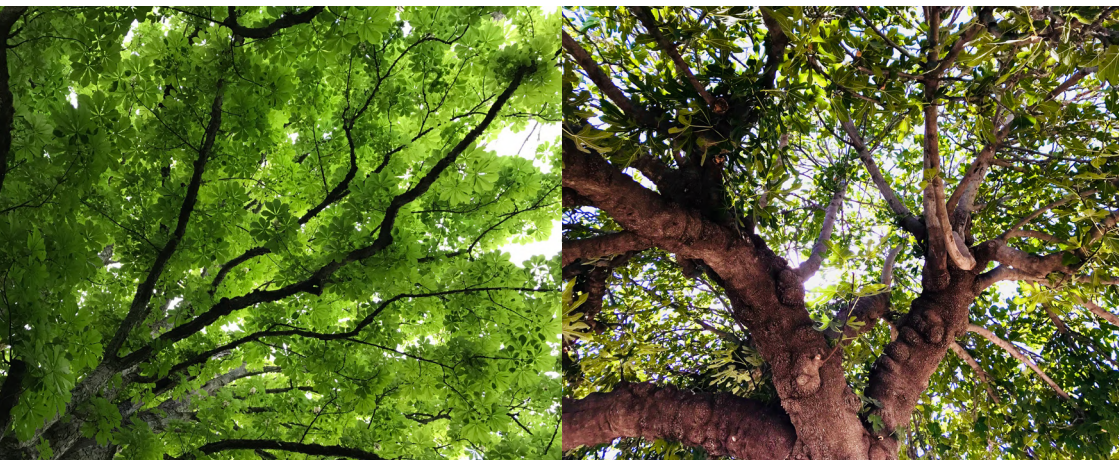
OneAction's objective is **to improve the well-being and quality of life of urban residents** thanks to the many benefits of tree planting. To do this, it wishes to act as a lever by mobilizing and bringing together a multitude of actors from different sectors, seeking to work together and in the long term towards the preservation and development of the tree patrimony and, more globally, towards an urban ecological transition and a will to live together harmoniously.

The year 2021

Following the conclusions of the report *Nos Arbres* (Our Trees) led by the University of Geneva, GE-21, Plante et Cité Suisse and the SEVE, as well as the public announcement of the City of Geneva's objective to increase its tree planting rate, **OneAction started communicating with the SEVE in 2021 to explore the possibility of public-private partnerships for tree planting.**

This initiative is also driven by the fact that the public space available for planting is severely limited due to the numerous cables and pipes. This is why the participation of private owners is essential in order to achieve a level of canopy with an effective impact.

In this context, OneAction and the SEVE have had preliminary discussions on the potential creation of synergies amongst key players in the real estate sector. In concrete terms, OneAction has proposed to approach such actors and to facilitate information sharing between them and the SEVE in order to encourage the implementation of joint actions and **to offer full support to private individuals in planting projects on their plots.** Discussions with the SEVE and several landowners and authorities will continue, and OneAction hopes to be able to implement this initiative in the course of 2022.





9 years of collaboration

300+ students from
the most disadvantaged
castes at the Gyan
Niketan school

350+ students
expected at the Gyan
International school

A future of possibilities, Bodh Gaya, India

Our partner

Established in 2004, **the Indian NGO Gyan Niketan Charitable Trust** runs the Gyan Niketan school in Bodh Gaya. The school provides free education to more than 300 students from the most disadvantaged castes who were previously unable to have access to education.

The project at a glance

Since 2012, OneAction has been supporting the Gyan Niketan school by **providing new educational opportunities** and improving the well-being of its 300 students. In particular, OneAction has contributed to the smooth running of the school, the development of its infrastructure, as well as efforts to tackle malnutrition with its *One Meal a Day* programme, which provides a balanced daily meal to all students. To enable the school to become more autonomous, **OneAction has also worked to create and fund a second, fee-paying primary school** to provide local youth with a quality English-language education at a much more affordable price than the available offer in the region.

This school provides new opportunities for young people from lower castes and will cover most of the costs of the Gyan Niketan free school. The school will eventually cater for around 350 children who will attend two years of kindergarten and eight years of primary school.

In addition to the regular curriculum, the school offers personal development workshops and extracurricular activities such as yoga and meditation. In its third year of operation, the school is expected to generate enough revenue to cover its operating costs and part of the *One Meal a Day* programme at the Gyan Niketan school.

The year 2021

After almost a year of shutdown due to the pandemic-related measures, **Gyan International School was able to open its doors to a first batch of students in March.** The school year was short-lived as the health situation in India deteriorated again, leading to its closing between April and July. During this period, OneAction renewed its initiative to distribute basic necessities (soap, masks and food) to the most vulnerable students.

In its first year of operation, **Gyan International School has welcomed 196 students**, 62% of whom are from the lowest castes (including 30% *dalits*) and 29% of whom are girls. The construction of the second floor started at the end of the summer and will allow the school to accommodate **more than 300 students from the beginning of the next school year.**



5 tonnes of chocolate
30%+ of the retail
prices stays in Ecuador
40%+ extra revenues
for farmers compared
to fair trade premiums

Banyan Alliance, Ecuador & Switzerland

Our partner

Founded in January 2020 as a limited company, **Banyan Alliance** is OneAction's sister company and aims, on the one hand, to promote an innovative business model and, on the other hand, to sustain OneAction's activities.

The project at a glance

Banyan Alliance aims to **offer high-end chocolates while addressing the many challenges and imbalances that exist in the cocoa industry**, including the lack of transparency, child labour, farmer insecurity and the environmental impact.

In collaboration with the Swiss master chocolate-maker Marc-André Cartier, Banyan Alliance offers high quality products and an innovative business model. They exclusively select beans from *Nacional* cocoa trees, with low yields but exceptional tasting properties. The beans come from agroforestry crops, and the chocolate and all of its ingredients are certified organic. In addition, the bars are made entirely in the country where the cocoa is produced to maintain a large part of the added value in that country.





The innovative aspect is linked to the Equal Profit label, which guarantees that **each actor along the supply chain receives a margin that is proportional to his or her production costs**. As a result, the distribution of income significantly changes and benefits the actors at the beginning of the chain: farmers, for example, receive almost 40% more than with usual fair trade programmes.

The year 2021

After a launch punctuated by numerous logistical pandemic-related challenges Banyan Alliance and OneAction faced additional obstacles and legal challenges in 2021. Indeed, in order to ensure that it could continue to benefit from its tax-exempt status despite the commercial activities of Banyan Alliance, OneAction has been working to change the

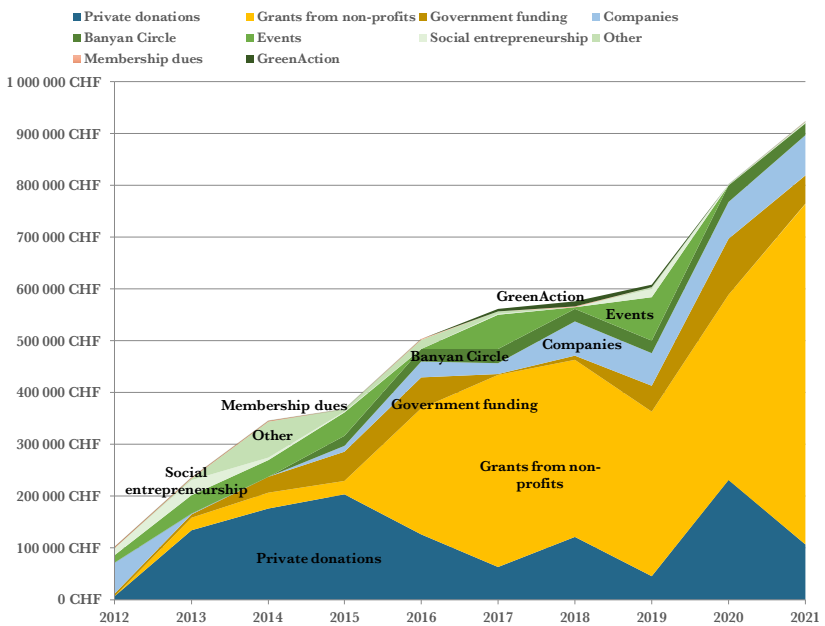


proposed redistribution scheme, which involved OneAction receiving a licence fee from Banyan Alliance equal to 10% of the latter's turnover. The new plan, approved by the tax authorities, plans for OneAction to receive dividends as a majority shareholder of Banyan Alliance.

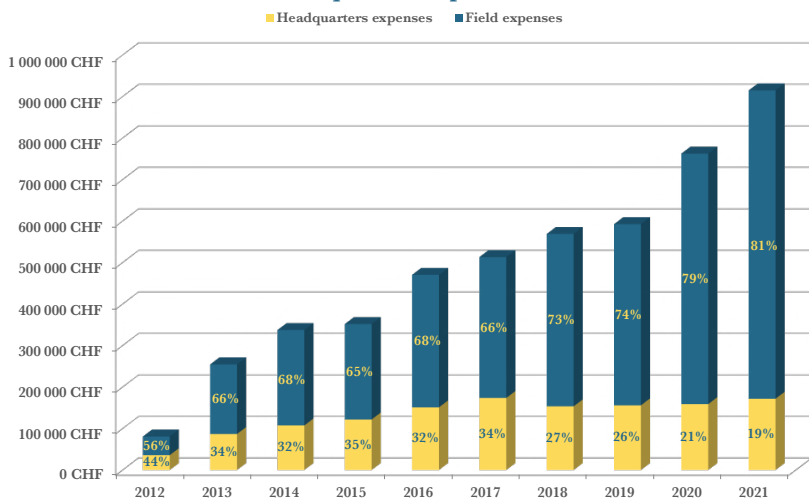
For its first import of 5 tonnes of chocolate, Banyan Alliance faced a very challenging situation. Commercially, the brand's growth was severely limited by the pandemic. However, successful partnerships with a number of well-known retailers enabled Banyan Alliance to sell the majority of its stock. The remaining tablets were donated to the Fondation Partage, a food bank that helps disadvantaged people, and to the staff of *IMAD*, a homecare institution. In 2022, Banyan Alliance will explore new development paths.

ONEACTION'S GROWTH

Sources of funding 2012 - 2021



Field vs. headquarters expenses 2012 - 2021



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(Our accounts are graciously audited by the company Grant Thornton Spiess SA.)

OPERATING STATEMENT (CHF)	2021	2020
REVENUE		
Earmarked revenues	675,009.49	514,459.29
<i>Projects in Africa</i>	60,095.20	63,443.25
<i>Projects in South America</i>	330,750.40	278,835.39
<i>Projects in Asia</i>	157,033.75	81,818.65
<i>Projects in other geographical areas</i>	127,130.14	90,362.00
Non-earmarked revenues	248,174.09	287,407.14
<i>Membership fees</i>	420.00	240.00
<i>Donations</i>	224,294.09	254,809.32
<i>Self-financing projects</i>	23,460.00	32,357.82
TOTAL	923,183.58	801,866.43
EXPENSES		
Expenses related to projects	(743,132.16)	(603,551.91)
<i>Projects in Africa</i>	(60,095.20)	(152,685.55)
<i>Projects in South America</i>	(309,196.95)	(268,267.60)
<i>Projects in Asia</i>	(207,547.75)	(49,863.90)
<i>Projects in other geographical areas</i>	(40,532.26)	(5,686.86)
<i>Wages related to field work</i>	(125,760.00)	(127,048.00)
Expenses related to the headquarters	(171,659.65)	(158,851.00)
<i>Wages</i>	(156,260.80)	(146,314.20)
<i>Operating costs</i>	(15,231.00)	(12,378.95)
<i>Financial costs</i>	(167.85)	(157.85)
TOTAL	(914,791.81)	(762,402.91)
PROFIT	8'391.77	39'463.52

BALANCE SHEET (CHF)

2021

2020

ASSETS

Current assets	153,938.73	166,799.51
<i>Current account</i>	<i>101,149.73</i>	<i>163,010.51</i>
<i>Prepaid expenses</i>	<i>789.00</i>	<i>789.00</i>
<i>Other receivables</i>	<i>52,000.00</i>	<i>3,000.00</i>
Fixed assets	86,000.00	0.00
<i>Participations</i>	<i>86,000.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>
TOTAL	239,938.73	166,799.51

LIABILITIES

Short-term liabilities	66,491.20	1,743.75
<i>Other creditors</i>	<i>66,431.20</i>	<i>1,176.80</i>
<i>Deferred income</i>	<i>60.00</i>	<i>120.00</i>
<i>Accrued liabilities</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>446.95</i>
Equity	173,447.53	165,055.76
<i>Retained earnings</i>	<i>165,055.76</i>	<i>125,592.24</i>
<i>Profit</i>	<i>8,391.77</i>	<i>39,463.52</i>
TOTAL	239,938.73	166,799.51

OUR PARTNERS IN 2021

We would like to thank, for their valuable support, the Albatros, Aletheia, Covalence, Drittes Millenium, Gertrude Hirzel, Mastepe and MKS foundations; the SER association; the International Solidarity Service of the Geneva Canton, the City of Geneva and the Commune of Genthod; the companies Comptoir Immobilier, DigiDNA and Grant Thornton Spiess; and the law firm Oberson Abels. We would also like to thank our loyal partners on the ground: CanopyCo and INEPE in Ecuador; Gyan Niketan in India, and Sadhana Forest in India and Kenya. Finally, we express our gratitude to our donors as well as to our members.

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