

OneAction

Collaborative solutions for people and nature



Annual report
2022

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Editorial

Dear readers,

Once again, the past year has been a busy and productive one, paving the way towards new horizons. At headquarters, it has been a year of transformation, from the creation of a new visual identity to the implementation of the long-term strategy approved a year before. A vision centred around the scaling up of three of our most promising initiatives, for which OneAction thrives in its role as a catalyst, allowing ambitious and unique partnerships to materialise.

For example, as part of its *Reunited under the Canopy* project, OneAction has been able to formalise a major alliance with the City of Geneva with the aim of greening urban areas. This collaboration also represents a new modus operandi for OneAction, which, by being mandated to provide its services, becomes a direct project implementer. In India and Kenya, our *Humus & Humans* initiative has taken off, and in Ecuador's Intag Valley, our conservation efforts have been given new impetus with the creation of a vast green energy production project: *From the Source to the Forest*. These various undertakings reflect OneAction's desire to grow; to grow in a controlled way, with the sole aim of sustaining the efforts we have made to date, by expanding our team, raising our operating reserves, professionalising our structure, and giving due value to each of its components.



Through these aspirations, OneAction aims to transition from a scarcity and urgency mindset, so common in the development sector, to one of growth and stability, marked instead by a long-term vision. In short, *acting* rather than *reacting*. A godsend, and an obvious step, too, when you're called OneAction!



Jan Isler, Director

OneAction

Identity, vision, mission and expertise

Established as an association, OneAction is a **non-profit** NGO based in Geneva and founded in 2011.

OneAction brings separate actors together to **protect nature and empower people**. To do so, OneAction accompanies and connects individuals, communities, companies and societies in the process of **creating collaborative and holistic initiatives with a strong sustainable social and environmental impact**. It is in this role of catalyst that OneAction thrives to inspire, act and unite.

Since its inception, OneAction has been working towards **preserving and restoring ecosystems, developing income generating activities** to encourage self-sustainability, and creating innovative partnerships between actors from the public, private, academic and business worlds.

OneAction in numbers

11 years of activity

6 ongoing initiatives

15 projects completed

320,000 beneficiaries

130,000 trees planted

150 ha of land restored



Our projects



Humus & Humans

India & Kenya



Beneficiaries

24,000 people trained in 3 years

100,000 people benefit from the trees planted and the training provided.

Impact

100,000 trees planted over 3 years

174,000 tonnes of CO₂ sequestered in 50 years

66 villages impacted

-90% food shortage days

+20% in the amount of stored rainwater

The project at a glance

This project aims to implement and replicate an **innovative agroforestry model** that is particularly effective in terms of CO₂ sequestration and water conservation in some of the most drought-affected inhabited areas in the world. **100,000 trees are being planted** in Tamil Nadu, India and in Samburu and Kajiado, Kenya, using the extraordinary potential of **oxalogenic species**.

These trees, which also produce fruits, nuts, and edible leaves, help to regenerate the soil by sequestering CO₂ in the form of limestone. The restored fertility thus improves food security and prevents environmental migration. Furthermore, the trees planted help to restore aquifers, increase biodiversity and capture CO₂ permanently.

Our partner

Sadhana Forest is an NGO whose primary mission is to create food forests in arid, low-fertility inhabited areas. It has over 20 years of experience in reforestation and water conservation and has been working in India since 2002 and in Kenya since 2014. OneAction has been working with Sadhana Forest since 2016.





The project in 2022

In 2022, the team was able to work in 23 Kenyan villages. In total, more than **11,000 trees** representing **21 species** were planted on participants' land to create small food forests; **2,000 people** were trained in agroforestry techniques; and **69 water conservation facilities** were also created. Due to the historic drought that hit the region this year, the team chose to continue working with the same beneficiaries to monitor tree growth more closely and ensure a high survival rate. Finally, a scientific mission was carried out in October to collect samples. These were sent to our academic partners, the universities of UC Davis and Neuchâtel, who will carry out analyses on the effects of oxalogenic trees in the region.

In India, a robust second-hand truck was converted into a dormitory for the reforestation team and used to transport water tanks, planting tools, compost, and hundreds of trees. **A new nursery was also created to accommodate 10,000 seedlings**, with its own solar system and autonomous irrigation. The first plantings began at the end of the year.

From the Source to the Forest

Northern Ecuador



Beneficiaries

4,000 participants in the project's activities

16,000 inhabitants of the Intag conservation area

Impact

2GWh of renewable hydroelectric energy produced per year

150 hectares of land reforested in **3** years

68 community-based organisations strengthened

250 teenagers trained in environmental clubs

Our partners

For 10 years, OneAction and **CanopyCo** have been working together for the **conservation of the Andean Forest** in Intag, **one of the ten most biodiverse regions in the world**. Faced with the growing threats in the valley, the two organisations have joined forces with the NGO **Corporación Toisán**, founded in 2005. As the main umbrella organisation in the region, it acts as the voice of civil society in the Intag Valley, promoting a model of sustainable territorial development and strengthening the capacity of societies to promote local initiatives. In total, it supervises 11 social organisations representing more than 5,000 beneficiaries.

The project at a glance

Continuing from the activities carried out to date, the project focuses on **strengthening communities** to ensure sustainable land management; developing **sustainable income generating activities**; **promoting sustainable farming techniques**; and **reforestation**. In addition to the scaling up of the activities, the novelty of this alliance lies in the launch of an ambitious programme to produce green energy through **micro-hydroelectric power plants**.





The project in 2022

In 2022, OneAction and its partners set out to create a replicable model of **micro-hydroelectric power plants** managed by the inhabitants of the Intag Valley catchment areas. The aim is to offer a **sustainable economic alternative** to the region's growing mining activities by producing and **selling renewable energy to the national grid** (2GW/year/plant). The fundraising phase for this project will begin in 2023.

In addition to this new component, a number of other activities have been carried out. **CanopyCo was able to plant more than 10,000 trees**, provide training in sustainable agriculture, **train 20 environmental educators**, **support farmers** in the production and distribution of natural compost and organic fruit, and train nearly 250 young people in 8 environmental clubs to study local flora and fauna and analyse river water quality. Lastly, OneAction continued to support a **legal fund enabling almost 1,000 beneficiaries to enforce their constitutional rights** in environmental matters.

Reunited under the Canopy

Geneva, Switzerland



Beneficiaries

2,000 residents living close to the planted plots

Impact

10+ public-private partnerships created in 3 years

15+ plots planted each year

8°C cooling potential in vegetated areas

25kg CO₂ sequestration potential per tree per year

The project at a glance

In order to improve the quality of life of the population, increase biodiversity and mitigate the effects of urban heat islands, **OneAction is creating public-private partnerships in Geneva and the Lake Geneva region to increase vegetation cover in urban areas.**

Our partners

Many municipalities have set targets for urban greening. Aware of the many constraints associated with planting trees in cities, including lack of space and the presence of cables and pipes, OneAction offers the public sector the opportunity to **mobilise private actors to maximise planting potential.**

To do this, OneAction collaborates with various landowners, including real estate agencies, pension funds, companies and private individuals, and creates synergies with academic institutes, landscape companies and architects, proposing **innovative cross-disciplinary projects** for partner public entities.





The project in 2022

In 2022, OneAction formalised its partnership with the City of Geneva's Service des Espaces Verts et de l'Environnement (SEVE) and helped set up an operating procedure for collaboration between the SEVE and various private landowners. As part of this first pilot project, **the City is supporting property owners by covering 50% of planting and maintenance costs over 3 years.**

Over the course of the year, **OneAction approached more than 30 organisations** and developed **synergies with 7 partners** (housing associations, pensions funds, owners and associations), including the Fondation CAP-Prévoyance and the Rosset and Naef real estate agencies. In total, **OneAction has studied more than 100 plots of land**, resulting in around 20 planting plans. Following the feasibility studies, OneAction has identified a **potential of 61 trees on 13 plots for the year 2023**. The first planting campaign is scheduled for spring 2023 and should be followed by another in the autumn. Simultaneously to these activities, several local authorities have approached OneAction to explore ways of encouraging private-sector involvement in joint greening projects.

The Wings of Knowledge

Quito, Ecuador



Beneficiaries

700 students from 0 to 18 years of age

2,000 community members

Impact

3,000 teachers trained from the private and public sectors

30,000 students trained

Creation of the **first** university of popular education of the country

2t of fruits and vegetables and **32t** of compost produced per year

Our partner

For over 35 years, the Institute of Research, Education and Popular Promotion of Ecuador (**INEPE**) has been applying and developing an internationally recognised holistic educational model based on the intellectual, emotional, social, physical, artistic and creative development of students in disadvantaged areas in the hills above Quito.

The project at a glance

With the aim of making the INEPE more autonomous and disseminating its educational model, **OneAction is supporting the Institute in two major areas: the development of its school infrastructure and the promotion of its pedagogy.**

Since 2012, OneAction has financed the construction of an agronomy cabin, greenhouses, reservoirs, terraces for Andean crops, a new refectory, a kitchen, and additional music rooms. To disseminate the INEPE model, OneAction has participated in the development of an e-learning platform for teachers in the private and public sectors: an initiative that has already enabled almost 3,000 people to receive training.





The project in 2022

After nearly 700 days of virtual teaching, **the school was able to reopen its doors to more than 700 students in February**, and virtual training courses were given to 130 participants during the year. **Hundreds of kilos of organic tomatoes, potatoes, courgettes, and beans** were harvested from the Institute's garden, and over **32 tonnes of compost** were produced from the 100 tonnes of waste collected during the year at two local markets.

Alongside these activities, the INEPE has been working hard to have the content of its curriculum endorsed by the relevant authorities, so that it can become the country's **first university of popular education**. A total of 3 degrees will be offered: initial education, primary education, and music education. The courses will last 5 semesters, with an average of 6 different subjects per semester. This new higher education institute will award recognised diplomas and create a new income source for the INEPE.

A Future of Possibilities

Bodh Gaya, India



Beneficiaries

500 pupils at the two schools

2,000 members of student's families

Impact

200 students benefit from discounted tuition at Gyan International School.

83% of students are from disadvantaged castes, and **80%** of school graduates go on for further education.

300 pupils attending the Gyan Niketan school free of charge

The project at a glance

Since 2012, **OneAction** has been supporting the **Gyan Niketan school** by offering its 300 pupils new educational opportunities and improving their well-being. OneAction has contributed to the smooth running of the school, the development of its infrastructure and efforts to combat malnutrition through its *One Meal a Day* programme, which provides a balanced daily meal to all pupils.

To enable the school to become more autonomous, **OneAction has also worked to create, fund and build a second primary school:** Gyan International School. This fee-paying school offers local young people a quality English-language education at much more affordable prices than the existing offer in the region.

Our partner

Founded in 2004, the Indian NGO **Gyan Niketan Charitable Trust** runs two primary schools for children from the most disadvantaged castes. Its aim is to help these children integrate into the national education system and provide them with new prospects for the future.





The project in 2022

After delays during the pandemic, construction of the second floor of the school was finally completed in 2022. Since March, activities have resumed normally and uninterrupted. To date, Gyan International has almost **200 pupils enrolled**, 83% of whom are from the most disadvantaged castes. The boundary wall around the grounds was erected at the beginning of the year, and **six solar panels were installed**, with a total output of 3kW, to cover the school's average electricity needs. In the playground, **50 trees have been planted** to provide shade for the children during the warmer months. Lastly, various leisure facilities have been installed (swings, slides, badminton, and kabaddi courts).

Since the school opened, **income has generated almost CHF10,000** and will cover almost three quarters of operating costs by the end of the school year. For 2023, Gyan International hopes to train 240 students, rising to 300 by 2023, which will enable it to become self-sufficient and generate a surplus that will be used to cover part of the costs of the Gyan Niketan free school.

Banyan Alliance

Ecuador & Switzerland



Beneficiaries

The **value chain** linked to the production of Banyan Alliance chocolates

Impact

40% more revenues for farmers compared to fair trade premiums

30% of the retail price remains in the country of origin of the beans.

Agroforestry crops to increase biodiversity

The project at a glance

Banyan Alliance is a brand created with the vision of **offering top-of-the-range chocolates while responding to the many challenges and imbalances observed in the cocoa industry**, including the lack of transparency, child labor, the precariousness of farmers and the environmental impact.

In collaboration with Swiss master chocolate maker Marc-André Cartier, Banyan Alliance offers high-quality products and an innovative business model. Only beans from *Nacional* cocoa trees, with low yields but exceptional taste properties, are selected. The beans come from agroforestry crops, and the chocolate and all its ingredients are certified organic.

Our partner

Founded in January 2020, **Banyan Alliance SA** is OneAction's sister company. The company aims, on the one hand, to promote an innovative ethical business model and, on the other, to support OneAction's activities.





The project in 2022

After a launch marked by numerous obstacles, Banyan Alliance began the year 2022 with a **considerable stock of chocolate**, and was unable to sell it before the end of the sales window in February. Rather than having to destroy it, **Banyan Alliance has chosen to redistribute it** to people who have been particularly affected by the health crisis by offering them a little top-of-the-range gustatory pleasure. **Banyan Alliance decided to offer its chocolate** to the beneficiaries of **Fondation Partage**, which fights food insecurity in Geneva, as well as to the staff of the Institution Genevoise de Maintien à Domicile (**IMAD**), which was particularly hard hit during the pandemic. The initiative has been warmly welcomed by its beneficiaries.

With the stock now exhausted, and without sufficient resources to plan future production and hire the workforce needed to develop the brand, Banyan Alliance is pondering what to do next. In 2023, it will consider whether to sell or withdraw from its activities.

Financial statement



(Our accounts are audited by Grant Thornton SA.)

Operating statement (CHF)

Revenue	2022	2021
Earmarked revenues	510,530.23	675,009.49
Projects in Africa	93,324.10	60,095.20
Projects in South America	205,116.83	330,750.40
Projects in Asia	87,265.20	157,033.75
Projects in other geographical areas	76,314.10	127,130.14
Mandate contracts	48,510.00	0.00
Non-earmarked revenues	155,954.96	248,174.09
Donations and membership fees	152,257.46	224,714.09
Self-financing projects	3,697.50	23,460.00
Total	666,485.19	923,183.58
Expenses		
Expenses related to projects	(413,563.72)	(743,132.16)
Projects in Africa	(16,923.00)	(60,095.20)
Projects in South America	(231,096.87)	(309,196.95)
Projects in Asia	(25,303.40)	(207,547.75)
Projects in other geographical areas	(36,140.45)	(40,532.26)
Wages related to field work	(104,100.00)	(125,760.00)
Expenses related to the headquarters	(202,263.80)	(171,659.65)
Wages	(178,970.40)	(156,260.80)
Operating costs	(22,999.35)	(15,231.00)
Financial costs	(294.05)	(167.85)
Exceptional expenses	(86,000.00)	(0.00)
Value adjustment on shareholdings	(86,000.00)	(0.00)
Total	(701,827.52)	(914,791.81)
Profit	(35,342.33)	8,391.77

A word from the Treasurer

The strategic thinking undertaken by OneAction is reflected in the financial statement, with a focus on key projects for the Association's future development. The Board would like to thank the Operational team and the various partners for the encouraging results achieved in this year of transition.



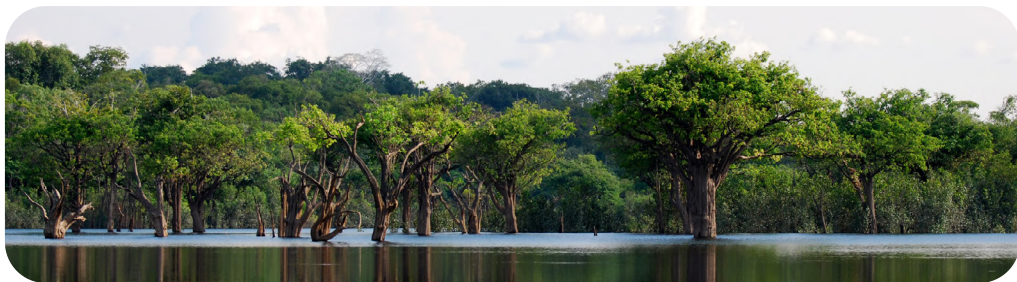
Bruno Beça

Balance sheet (CHF)

Assets	2022	2021
Current assets	138,204.20	153,938.73
Current account	107,108.20	101,149.73
Prepaid expenses	1,989.00	789.00
Other receivables	29,107.00	52,000.00
Fixed assets	0.00	86,000.00
Shareholdings	0.00	86,000.00
Total	138,204.20	239,938.73
Liabilities		
Short-term liabilities	99.00	66,491.20
Other creditors	39.00	66,431.20
Deferred income	60.00	60.00
Accrued liabilities	0.00	0.00
Equity	138,105.20	173,447.53
Retained earnings	173,447.53	165,055.76
Profit	(35,342.33)	8,391.77
Total	138,204.20	239,938.73

Our partners in 2022

We would like to thank, for their invaluable support, the Covalence, Drittes Millenium, Green Leaves Education, Mastepe and MKS foundations; the SER association; the Canton of Geneva, the Service des Espaces Verts of the City of Geneva and the City of Geneva; and the companies Comptoir Immobilier, DigiDNA and Grant Thornton. We would also like to thank our donors and members, as well as our partners in the field: CanopyCo, Corporación Toisán and INEPE in Ecuador; Gyan Niketan in India; and Sadhana Forest in India and Kenya.



Donate

ONEACTION ASSOCIATION

Rue du Conseil-Général 14
1205 Geneva, Switzerland

Banque Cantonale de Genève

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Become a member

If you would like to become a member of OneAction, simply send a letter to the Association's head office expressing your wish to join us.

Support

Find out how else you can support OneAction's efforts on our website:

www.oneaction.ch

