



Annual Report 2024

Overview

Throughout the year, Sagittaria successfully completed two projects (8 & 9, see below) and engaged in discussions regarding the acquisition of two new forest areas. The number of individual and family members increased from 62 to 82. The board held two strategic meetings to define priorities for the coming years. Grant applications for two foundations were prepared and will be submitted next year. Once again, donations and legacies in the six-figure range were collected. The annual financial statement closed with a surplus of CHF 172,064.64.

Board Activities

The board held five meetings, during which it made decisions on forest acquisition projects and marketing activities. Additionally, two strategic meetings were conducted: on March 16, 2024, the board analyzed Sagittaria's strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities, setting qualitative goals for project execution and monitoring, marketing and fundraising, membership growth, internal organization, and risk mitigation regarding key personnel. On September 21, 2024, during a marketing strategy workshop, the board defined Sagittaria's unique positioning compared to similar organizations, formulated its vision and long-term goals, and established priorities for fundraising efforts. Franz Obrist, a seasoned fundraising expert from Pro Natura Switzerland, provided advisory support.

Forest Acquisitions and Projects 2024

Completed Projects

Project 8 Tape Miri, Ruth Zimmermann: The final payments are expected to be received by year-end.

Project 9 Yvy' Porã, San Vicente Region, Didolichi Siblings: A group of eight siblings offered 70 hectares of forest for sale as part of an inheritance. Sagittaria successfully acquired the forest for USD 200,000 and transferred ownership to the local community.

New Projects

Project 10 Mártires: In October, members Dorotea and Alex, accompanied by Johannes Jenny, visited the Tekoá (community) Mártires Mirí. The Mburuvicha (community leader) Karaí Mirí, described the situation: The community settled in the area just over a year ago. Prior to their arrival, a small section of land had burned, which they then used to build their homes and establish crops. The landowner tolerated their presence, as this also put an end to illegal logging activities. However, due to financial difficulties, the owner is now selling the land, putting the community at risk of displacement. Concerned about their future, the Aty' Ñeycherõ (council of community leaders) formally requested Sagittaria to acquire the forest.

Project 11 Cerro Corá: Due to financial reserves allocated to ongoing projects, this initiative has been temporarily put on hold and will be resumed next year.

The Tekoá Timbó community currently resides on land that was originally set aside for future road expansions. They grow cassava, beans, maize, and pumpkins, but the yield from their small, rocky gardens is insufficient. With no nearby forest to gather wild fruits or hunt for protein, men and women must leave for low-paying jobs, leaving grandmothers to care for the children.

The forest in question is owned by a couple who emigrated to Barcelona. While they deeply value nature, they cannot protect the land from illegal logging and poaching from such a great distance. They are therefore eager to sell it to Sagittaria on behalf of the Tekoá Timbó community.

Agreement for Projects 10 & 11: Housing and Crops Outside the Forest:

Both Karaí Mirí and the Mburuvicha of Tekoá Timbó, Kuarai Papá, along with the Aty' Ñeycheró (leaders council), have signed an agreement ensuring that no native trees will be cut down and that homes and crops will be established outside the forest. In Mártires Mirí, these will be located on a previously burned area, while in Timbó, a pine plantation will be used. Only exotic pine wood will be utilized for housing construction. Furthermore, the communities have committed to collecting non-organic waste, a growing issue as non-biodegradable materials were previously nonexistent in their traditions.

Marketing Activities:

Sagittaria continues to develop its communication channels and has promoted its mission at various events:

- Website sagittaria.ch: Content revised, now available in both German and English
- Redesign of the Forest Purchase Certificate
- Newsletter publications
- Press articles
- Development of a donation app
- Crowdfunding campaigns for water supply and photovoltaic projects via the donation app and external partners.
- Posters and flyers at the "Tankbar" gas station in Baden
- Harp fundraising event with an information booth in Baden
- Fundraising campaign by AIS women at a garden center
- Presentation and funding request to the municipality of Spreitenbach
- Presentation and funding request to the Rotary Club
- Funding request to Zehnder Immobilien AG
- Preparation of foundation applications: Accordeos, Franklinia, and others

Internal Organization

Project overviews, meeting minutes, and other essential documents and information are now accessible to all board members via a shared Google Drive.

Partner Organization AIS

Kurt Steiner decided not to merge the association Asociación Impulso Solidario Schweiz – Misiones (AIS) with Sagittaria but to dissolve it. At the general assembly, members agreed to allocate AIS's liquid assets of approximately CHF 60,000 toward the acquisition of Ruth Zimmermann's forest (Project 8). AIS members were invited to join Sagittaria.

Memberships

The number of members increased from 62 to 82 individual and family memberships, driven by the transition of AIS members to Sagittaria (see above) and enhanced marketing efforts.

Securing Support from Jachuká Reté

Jachuká Reté is a key figure in Sagittaria's work, as she facilitates access to indigenous communities and is herself part of the Mbyá. Previously employed part-time at Argentina's National Institute for Indigenous Affairs (INAI), her position was terminated when the INAI was dissolved. To ensure continued collaboration, the board decided to fund her position at an annual

cost of approximately USD 7,000. Financing will come from membership contributions and other unrestricted funds.

Financial Results

Membership contributions increased. Thanks to a legacy donation, over CHF 180,000 was secured for earmarked forest acquisition funding. The year ended with a surplus of CHF 172,065. As of November 1, 2024, Sagittaria's general operating assets amount to CHF 29,372, while the Mbyá Land Acquisition Fund holds CHF 243,220.

Outlook for 2025

Next year, the first foundation grant applications will be submitted, allowing Sagittaria to gain experience in this process. Existing fundraising activities will continue and be further expanded.

Matthias Bernhard (Board President), November 2024