



Schweizerische Stiftung für Solidarität im Tourismus
Swiss Foundation for Solidarity in Tourism

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Annual Report
2019

19th Annual Report 2019

A growing number of tangible projects demonstrate the conditions under which tourism may benefit the general population in the destinations. These positive examples include the winners of the TO DO Awards, supported by SST. These awards honour initiatives which enable the participation of local people and their involvement in the planning and implementation of tourism projects, products and services.

Facilitating such best-practice projects financially or supporting their development is the objective of the Foundation's funding policy. Besides, the SST Foundation supports organisations and initiatives that work to contribute to sustainable development in tourism and/or raise public awareness of issues related to unwanted side effects of tourism – a sector which has been growing significantly all over the world.

During the year documented, it was possible to disburse grants and awards amounting to a total of CHF 211,920.-. Since the Foundation was founded in 2001, it has supported organisations and projects with a total of far more than two million Swiss Francs.

Report on the Board's Activities

In 2019, the board held three regular meetings.

The regular board meetings mainly focus on the evaluation of the quarterly financial reports and on decisions on funding proposals. According to the rules of procedure, the preparatory work has been delegated to the Foundation's offices, standing committees, and individual board members.

Funding Committee

The funding committee reviews the funding applications submitted to the foundation in order to determine whether they are in line with the foundation's objectives and the focus of SST's funding policy. It presents those proposals which have been found worth supporting to the board for their decision.

To limit the number of funding applications submitted to the Foundation, which have been many for some time, the board decided that in 2019 proposals were to be submitted only during the months of June and July. During this time frame, 60 applications were accepted and reviewed in detail by the funding committee. In addition, the funding committee reviewed 76 applications in the first quarter of the year which had been submitted in 2018 and had to be put on hold in late 2018.

From the proposals submitted to the board, 11 proposals were approved and supported with a grant.

Furthermore, the annual support for the Working Group on Tourism & Development (akte) in Basle was approved for the years 2020 to 2022. In addition, the TO DO Awards, organised by the Institute for Tourism and Development (Studienkreis für Tourismus und Entwicklung) in Germany, were supported with a contribution to the costs of organising the award and prize monies for the two TO DO winners. The board also decided to award prize monies to the winners of the TO DO Awards Human Rights in Tourism with effect from 2020.

Further information on the projects supported by the Foundation can be found in the section on grants and awards, and on the SST website at www.sstfoundation.org.

TO DO Award Socially Responsible Tourism

On the occasion of the International Tourism Exchange (ITB) in March 2019, the two winners of the TO DO Award 2019 were handed over a prize money of CHF 5,000.- each. The SST Foundation gives prize moneys of CHF 5,000.- to each of the winners, and a delegate of the board of SST represents the Foundation in the contest jury. In addition, the Foundation has since 2004 been one of the regular supporters of the TO DO Awards and supports this internationally renowned contest with a financial contribution of CHF 5,000.-.

Award Winners in 2019

- Awamaki, Ollantaytambo, Peru (www.awamaki.org)
- Social Enterprise in Responsible Tourism OPEN EYES, Delhi, India (www.openeyesproject.com)

For further information on the award winners and the TO DO Awards, see www.todo-contest.org.

Grants and Awards

In 2019, the year under review, grants and awards amounting to a total of CHF 211,920.- were disbursed.

Overview: Projects and Organisations Supported in 2019	
1. Working Group on Tourism & Development, Basle, Contribution 2019	CHF 25,000.-
2. Workcamp Switzerland / Programme for the year 2019	CHF 10,000.-
3. Organiser whatsapp, Zurich / whatsapp Vienna-Nice / co-funding of book publication	CHF 10,000.-
4. Artistic Association PROTOTIP, Serbia / Mapped Culture	EUR 14,200.-
5. Kathmandu Environmental Education Project (KEEP), Nepal / Porters' Awareness Workshop 2019	USD 5,000.-
6. "Trails for Change" Tourism Infrastructure Development NGO, Armenia / Revival of Ancient Trails in Vorotan Canyon	USD 21,639.-
7. CEFA, Tanzania / Respons-ability. Responsible tourism empowering people with disability	CHF 25,009.-
8. ECPAT France / ESCALE in Madagascar	CHF 10,000.-
9. Alliance for Responsible Mining, Colombia / Project to promote artisanal gold panning as a legitimate and tourist activity	CHF 24,960.-
10. Satkarma Mission, Delhi, India / Empowering Cycle Rickshaw Drivers of Old Delhi	CHF 16,605.-
11. Fundacion Buena Semilla, Colombia / Tourist experience in the Egyptian neighbourhood of Bogotá	USD 13,200.-
12. Amigos de Santa Cruz Foundation, Guatemala / Community Tour and Home Stay in Santa Cruz La Laguna	USD 12,500.-
TO DO Award	
- Contribution TO DO Award	CHF 5,000.-
- Awards for the TO DO winners in 2019, 2x CHF 5,000.	CHF 10,000.-

A list of the projects and organisations supported by the Foundation between 2001 and 2019 is available online at www.sstfoundation.org.

Finance and Investment Committee

The mandate for the management of the Foundation's assets has been transferred to Bank Cler (the former Bank Coop). The finance and investment committee is in regular contact with the customer service representative in charge, verifies transactions in the investment account and presents a financial report to the board of the Foundation at regular board meetings. Once a year, the finance and investment

committee holds a detailed consultation with the asset manager of Bank Cler. In this consultation, the Foundation's investment strategy is evaluated against the backdrop of the Foundation's requirements and the financial market situation, and is adapted if necessary. Based on the applicable statutory provisions, the mandate is a "sustainable mandate".

Outlook

For the year 2019, the board of the Foundation budgeted an amount of CHF 160,000.- to support projects and organisations. In view of the large number of applications received and approved for funding (some of which were received in the previous year) and in view of the high returns on investments to be expected in 2019, the board of the foundation increased the budget by CHF 51,920.- to a total of CHF 211,920.-. For the year 2020 an amount of CHF 180,000.- was budgeted to support projects. By providing this support, the Foundation wants to keep up its commitment to sustainable tourism development within its scope and in line with its objectives.

Annotations to the Financial Statement

As at 31/12/2019, the Foundation's assets amounted to CHF 5,355,457.-. While the revenues amounted to 555,754.- (including unrealised capital gains on securities), the expenses (including grants and unrealised capital losses on securities) amounted to CHF 339,144.-. Due to the extraordinarily favourable performance of the stock market in 2019, the books show a profit of CHF 216,610.-. The investments closed with a gross positive return of 10.2 % by the end of 2019. The revenues realised from selling securities and the capital gains amount to CHF 121,518.- and were 19 % less than budgeted.

At 31/12/2019 fixed-interest investments dominated, with a percentage of 49.2 % of total assets. The percentage of securities was 38.6 %, 12.2 % were liquid assets and various investments. As the potential of fixed-interest investments to generate returns continues to be low, and as the amount of liquid assets which do not generate any returns is rather high, the board decided in late 2019 to slightly increase the percentage of securities by 5 %. The investments in securities are to be made in Swiss securities with top ratings and good dividend yields. This means the strategic allocation of securities will be 39 %, the tactical one 45 %.

The operational and administrative costs amounted to CHF 64,259.- (2018: CHF 80,271.-). As compared to the previous year, they decreased by CHF 16,012.- and were less than the amount budgeted for the year 2019. It needs to be added that the operational and administrative costs had continuously been reduced over the past few years, but due to the number of applications that had to be assessed in 2018, which was exceptionally large as compared to the previous years, the costs slightly increased in 2018.

The Foundation's investment policy is long-term and cautious, yet income-oriented. This is to ensure the long-term protection of assets, while grants are made from the return on investment, which also covers running operational and administrative costs.

Board of Directors

Hansjörg Ruf, President (since 2001)
Hans Ulrich Schudel, Vice President (since 2001)
Michael Andres, Treasurer (since 2001)
Esther Ineichen (since 2001)
Elena Obreschkow (since 2007)

Auditors

EY Auditors, Basle

Board Committees

Finance and Investment:

Michael Andres
Hans Ulrich Schudel

Funding:

Esther Ineichen
Elena Obreschkow
Hansjörg Ruf

This Annual Report 2019 was approved and passed by the board at the 80th board meeting on 8 May 2020.