



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

SR_26.02

Annual Report 2025

Introduction

For the Swiss Foundation for Solidarity in Tourism, the year 2025 was characterised by an exceptionally high number of funding proposals, intensive funding activities, and important strategic decision-making with regard to impact-orientation and digitalisation.

For many civil society organisations the global situation with persisting geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainties posed major challenges. At the same time, there has been a rapidly growing need for funding in the field of socially and ecologically sustainable tourism. In the year under review, SST was faced with an exceptionally high number of project proposals, showing both the relevance of the Foundation's funding activities as well as an increasing need for quality management.

In 2025, the Board of SST continued to adhere to its funding strategy: supporting projects which bring sustainable benefits to the local population in tourist destinations, contribute to economic and social development, and take ecological aspects into account.

Report on the Board's Activities

The Board held four regular meetings in 2025 (on 27 February, 27 June, 17 September and 19 December 2025). During these meetings the Board mainly focused on assessing the quarterly financial reports, on discussing and deciding on funding proposals, and on addressing strategic questions related to the Foundation's development.

A special focus in 2025 was on strengthening the Foundation's approach to impact-oriented funding practices, and on the question of how to make the Foundation's investments more impact-oriented. The Board also addressed the assessment of risks and the continuing digitalisation of the funding application process.

As usual, the activities were prepared by the Foundation's office, committees and individual board members and were presented to the Board for their decisions.

Projects Supported

In 2025, the year under review, the Foundation received about 350 funding applications. Due to the exceptionally high number of funding proposals, many applications had to be rejected in a pre-selection, or had to be kept on hold for later funding rounds.

In four funding rounds, the Board decided on the support of projects in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Europe. The ones supported included projects in the following fields:

- job integration and training in tourism
- empowerment of women and youth
- community-based and cultural tourism
- conservation of biodiversity and nature in the context of tourism

Further information on the projects supported by the Foundation and a list of all projects and organisations supported by the Foundation since 2001 is available on the SST website at www.sstfoundation.org.

The following projects and organisations were supported in 2025:

Project	Amount
Foundation for Social Transformation (FST) – Footprint – India	CHF 25,000.-
Environmental Women Org. – Ethnoprogramme of birdwatching tourism with augmented reality in Colombian mountains – Colombia	Euro 10,000.-
Camping Association Montenegro - Digitalisation and Development of the Camping Network in Montenegro – Montenegro	CHF 12,000.-
ECPAT Germany – Jointly for child protection in tourism – Germany	CHF 10,000.-
Asociacion ANDES – Native Potato Museum: A living archive of Andean biocultural heritage – Peru	CHF 10,000.-
Ololasurai Reto CBO - Strengthening Community-Led Wildlife Protection for Sustainable Tourism in Ololasurai Conservancy, Maasai Mara – Kenya	Euro 8,000.-
Hands-on institute – Touchability 2.0: Reviving Dalit Homestays Post-Covid-19 – Nepal	CHF 18,730.-
Fundaciòn Mujer - Empowering Costa Ricans to Develop Businesses, Skills and Economic Opportunity – Costa Rica	CHF 5,000.-
ARS Bangladesh - Sustainable Tourism and Youth Empowerment for Inclusive Development in Bandarban – Bangladesh	CHF 12,099.-
Difalink - PROOF (disability emPowerment fOr hOspitality Focused) – Indonesia	CHF 24,526
El Suenero Cultural Center – Bridge to Equity, Woman and Diversities of La Boca + Barracas in Tourism & Culture – Argentina	CHF 14,280.-
Trails for change NGO (TFC) – Sustainable Trail Maintenance in the Vayots Dzor Region – Armenia	USD 15,977.50
Pró-Onça Institute – Woman led eco-tourism for biodiversity conservation Brazil – Brazil	CHF 19,960.-
Macondo Getsemaní SAS – Getsemaní Vivo: Strengthening Community Cultural Tourism – Colombia	CHF 12,800.-
LaK-Zona & RETUSCAA – Walking Stories: Digital Routes for Community Tourism – Colombia	CHF 25,000.-
Social Lab – The Mountain is Hers Too – Nepal	CHF 5,500.-

In addition, the following recurring grants to organisations and for events were disbursed:

Organisation / Event	Amount
Fairunterwegs , Basle, contribution 2025	CHF 25,000.-
Institute for Tourism and Development , Seefeld (Munich) / TODO Contest	CHF 6,500.-
TODO Award Human Rights	CHF 5,000.-
TODO Award prize money	CHF 10,000.-

Funding Committee and Grants

In 2025, the funding committee was confronted with an exceptionally heavy work load, having had to screen a total of about 350 project proposals. Some of these projects were rejected on the basis of formal criteria. The reasons for rejections included insufficient documentation, lack of relevance to tourism, formal deficits, and an unclear context or uncertain conditions under which the projects were to be implemented.

Due to the high quality of many proposals, the Board decided in June 2025 to increase the amount budgeted for grants from an initial CHF 170,000 to CHF 240,000. This allowed for a larger number of eligible projects to be included. The grants effectively disbursed in 2025 amounted to a total of CHF 238,078.50.

Finance and Investment Committee

In 2025, the finance and investment committee was in regular contact with Basler Kantonalbank (BKB), the bank in charge of managing the Foundation's assets. The investments performed in a satisfactory manner, as compared to similar mandates. The income from dividends and interest was in line with the budget.

Annotations to the Financial Statement 2025

The financial year 2025 was characterised by a significant expansion of funding activities. The Foundation incurred expenses of CHF 408,598.68, while the income amounted to CHF 321,389.13. This led to a loss of CHF 87,209.55, due to the increased amount disbursed as grants. The income from securities amounted to CHF 118,830.65, while the unrealised capital gains were CHF 202,558.48 in total.

The increased expenditures are directly related to the large number of high-quality funding proposals and are in line with the Foundation's strategic objective of making use of its funds as effectively as possible. Throughout 2025, the Foundation always had sufficient liquidity.

The long-term, cautious and income-oriented investment policy was maintained. It ensures the long-term protection of the Foundation's assets and sustained funding activities as well as the ability to cover running operational and administrative costs.

Changes in Board Membership

There were no changes to board membership in 2025. SST continues to consist of the following individual members and committees:

- Board of the Foundation:

Michael Andres, Treasurer	since 2001
Esther Ineichen	since 2001
Matthias Leisinger	since 2024
Elena Obreschkow, President	since 2007
Hans Ulrich Schudel, Vice president	since 2001
- Funding: Esther Ineichen, Matthias Leisinger, Elena Obreschkow
- Finance and Investment: Michael Andres, Hans Ulrich Schudel
- Auditors: EY Auditors, Basle

Outlook

The Board sees 2026 as another year to keep professionalising the Foundation's funding activities and strategic development. The focus is on introducing digitalised application procedures, on systematically assessing the impact of the projects supported, on reviewing the mandate of the bank in charge under considerations of impact-orientation, and on optimising internal processes in view of the high number of funding proposals.

This annual report 2025 was approved and passed by the Board at the 103rd board meeting on 11th March, 2026.