

Annual Report 2014-2015

Baltcf

(English Summary)

Summary

The years 2014 and 2015 have been marked by the establishment of the foundation and the creation of operational structures, including the establishment of the office and the appointment of the managing director. This formed the basis for the commencement of operations by the Baltic Sea Conservation Foundation (baltcf) from the beginning of 2015.

Besides organising internal administrative structures, criteria for the assessment of project proposals were defined, with all activities carried out by baltcf following the rules of transparency as laid down by Transparency International Deutschland e.V. in their initiative for transparent civil societies. This helps ensure a trustworthy and goal-oriented collaboration with future partners.

One of the first steps to promote transparency was the creation of our Internet website, which enables access to all important information about the foundation, funding of projects as well as the application procedures.

The managing director has played an active role in networking and promoting the foundation's goals and activities to an international audience in 2015. This proved to be an effective strategy, with first project concepts and proposals already discussed, clearly showing the success that baltcf could attain in future.

We are looking forward to the coming years, in which the support of nature conservation by baltcf could lead to the achievement of a more sustainable and ecologically healthy Baltic Sea region.

Our first annual report will provide you a brief overview of the foundation's work since its creation in February 2014 and the developments and accomplishments over 2015.

Organization

The Baltic Sea Conservation Foundation is registered as the International Baltic Sea Foundation for Nature Conservation and is a non-profit, private civil law foundation for the promotion of nature and environmental conservation in the entire Baltic Sea region. It was founded in 2014, with the supervisory authority being the Ministry of Justice M-V.

The foundation's office, led by the managing director since 2015, prepares funding decisions for the voluntary foundation board and monitors projects in process.

Board of Directors

The Baltic Sea Conservation Foundation is legally represented by a voluntarily active Board of Directors, consisting of the following people:

Heike Vesper, CEO, Head of Marine Conservation, WWF Germany

Jörg Schmiedel, 1st Chairman of the Board, freelance landscape planner

Frank Häuser, 2nd Chairman of the Board, freelance lawyer

In collaboration with the foundation's management, the Board makes all relevant decisions within the framework of its board meetings, which usually take place four times a year.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees supervises and advises the Board of Directors and decides on projects above 100.000 Euro. The members of the voluntary Board of Trustees are:

Dr. Dirk von Ameln, President (Senior advisor to the CEO, Nord Stream 2 AG)

Prof. Dr. Mathias Grünwald, Vice-President (Regional Chairman, BUND M-V e.V.)

Christian Pegel, Member (Minister, Ministry Energy, Infrastructure and Digitalization of the State of Mecklenburg Vorpommern)

Stefan Schwill, Member (Regional Chairman, NABU M-V e.V.)

Sylvia Becker, Member (Head of Finance, WWF Germany)

Head Office

The foundation's head office is located in Greifswald, Germany on the premises of the Michael Succow Foundation and shares its office with the German OSTSEESTIFTUNG. Peter Torkler was appointed as managing director in January 2015. Franziska Thomas assists the managing director as a project assistant since April 2015.

Financial

Baltcf's capital stock consists of a fixed foundation asset worth 5 million Euro and a cash stock for project expenditure of 20 million Euro, which is exclusively deemed for funding nature and environmental protection projects in the Baltic Sea region. 2014 and 2015 only incurred costs for administration and establishment of the foundation, so that by the end of 2015 the total capital stock of the foundation was still above 25 Million Euro.

Baltcf's investment strategy is based on the requirements stated in the foundation's statute and follows the principles of complete transparency and sustainability. Our investment guidelines exclusively specify conditions of investment, taking into consideration ecological, social and ethical criteria.

Business Development

2015 was characterized by the operative and strategic build-up of the foundation. The office in Greifswald was completely set up in first quarter of 2015. Accounting and office management were developed in cooperation with the OSTSEESTIFTUNG. In addition, framework conditions for project grants and asset management were established.

In order to ensure an objective and well-balanced project assessment, nine voluntary honorary members were appointed to the project advisory committee in order to provide additional, international expert assistance to project proposals and facilitate further development. The project advisory committee is consulted for funding applications with project budgets exceeding 100.000 Euro.

First steps were made by the managing director to represent the young foundation at international events held in the Baltic Sea region, enabling the foundation to demonstrate their objectives and future goals to relevant stakeholders. A flyer as well as the website www.baltcf.org were produced for public outreach and awareness. The latter provides detailed information on baltcf's goals, funding priorities and decision-making strategy, along with providing relevant forms for potential project applicants.

Due to the international nature of the foundation's projects, communication is mainly in English language.

Project Support

First discussions with potential project applicants from Germany, Poland, Sweden and Finland took place in the second half of 2015. Based on the foundation's funding guidelines, the first project concepts were analysed and applicants were prompted to submit full proposals. Nine project applications were examined in total. However, funding decisions could not yet be taken in 2015.