



Financial Report 2021

Wyss Academy for Nature
at the University of Bern

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Cover photo: A double-crested cormorant flying over Lake Ontario, Canada. Once threatened by DDT, its numbers have increased over the past years.

On the Financial Report 2021

In fiscal year 2021, Wyss Academy for Nature was unable to fully achieve its ambitious goals from a financial perspective. The reasons for this were manifold. Setting up the global hubs during a continuing global pandemic was underestimated. Recruitment took more time, especially for the research and innovation teams. As a result, ongoing and new projects could not advance as quickly as desired. This meant that the financial resources were not fully used, and Wyss Academy posted ordinary earnings of CHF 10.89 million.

Project expenditure accounts for the largest part of this at CHF 3.73 million, followed by personnel expenses at CHF 3.48 million. Other operating expenses amounted to CHF 0.91 million and depreciation and amortization to CHF 0.16 million.

The balance sheet amounts to CHF 28.39 million, of which 97% are current assets. These current assets in turn include CHF 26.16 million in cash and cash equivalents and readily disposable assets, as well as CHF 1.47 million in advance payments or services received in advance.

Fixed assets amount to CHF 0.76 million and represent the value of the Foundation's investments at the end of 2021 after depreciation.

On the liabilities side, payables from goods and services amount to CHF 0.95 million. Accrued expenses and deferred income total CHF 2.06 million, including funds received from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) amounting to CHF 1.21 million.

Wyss Academy for Nature had a foundation capital of CHF 24.99 million at the end of 2021.

This is reflected by cash inflow from financing activities of CHF 13.08 million. Wyss Academy is well-equipped with a solid liquidity position.



Matthias Schmid-Huberty,
Chief Operations Officer



Olivier Eschler,
Finance and Controlling

Olivier Eschler

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Finance and Controlling

Matthias Schmid-Huberty

Matthias Schmid-Huberty,
Chief Operations Officer

Balance Sheet

		12/31/2021	12/31/2020
Assets			
	Notes	CHF	CHF
Cash and cash equivalents		2,385,256	3,052,771
Current financial assets	4.1	23,779,090	10,700,000
Receivables from services	4.2	958,848	665,795
Other short-term receivables	4.3	83,427	1,538,052
Advance payments Regional Hubs	4.4	160,898	124,418
Prepayments and accrued income		264,439	70,091
Current assets		27,631,958	16,151,127
Tangible fixed assets	4.5	446,590	307,000
Intangible assets	4.6	314,232	143,000
Non-current assets		760,822	450,000
Total assets		28,392,780	16,601,127
Liabilities and foundation capital			
	Notes	CHF	CHF
Payables from goods and services	4.7	951,518	918,378
Accrued liabilities and deferred income	4.8	2,061,785	1,512,765
Short-term provisions		393,777	69,340
Current liabilities		3,407,080	2,500,483
Foundation capital		10,000,000	10,000,000
Result carried forward		4,100,644	0
Result of the year		10,885,056	4,100,644
Total foundation capital		24,985,700	14,100,644
Total liabilities and foundation capital		28,392,780	16,601,127

Income Statement

01/01–12/31/2021 05/18–12/31/2020

	Notes	CHF	CHF
Donor contributions	4.9	17,000,000	7,000,000
Income for implementation program Bern Hub	4.10	1,908,847	568,331
Other third party funding for implementation program Bern Hub		121,067	90,603
Other third-party funding for projects, research and services		127,441	0
Other operating income		9,141	1,000
Total operating income		19,166,496	7,659,934
Project expenses	4.11	-3,728,068	-885,490
Personnel expenses	4.12	-3,483,439	-2,042,912
Other operating expenses	4.13	-907,052	-545,283
Depreciation of tangible assets	4.5	-109,493	-56,834
Amortization on intangible assets	4.6	-50,858	-28,771
Total operating expenses		-8,278,910	-3,559,290
Operating result		10,887,586	4,100,644
Financial result		-2,530	0
Ordinary result		10,885,056	4,100,644
Extraordinary result		0	0
Result of the year		10,885,056	4,100,644

Statement of Changes in Equity

	2021	2020
	CHF	CHF
Foundation capital	10,000,000	10,000,000
Result carried forward	4,100,644	0
Result of the year	10,885,056	4,100,644
Foundation capital as of 31 December	24,985,700	14,100,644

The foundation capital was paid in 2020 by the three founders The Wyss Foundation (CHF 6,000,000), the University of Bern (CHF 2,300,000) and the Canton of Bern (CHF 1,700,000).

Cash Flow Statement

		2021	2020
Cash flows from operating activities			
	Notes	CHF	CHF
Result of the year		10,885,056	4,100,644
Depreciation of tangible assets	4.5	109,493	56,834
Amortization of intangible assets	4.6	50,858	28,771
Losses on asset disposals		0	0
Increase (-) / Decrease (+) in receivables	4.2 / 4.3	1,161,572	-2,203,847
Increase (-) / Decrease (+) in advance payments South Hub	4.4	-36,479	-124,418
Increase (-) / Decrease (+) in prepayments and accrued income		-194,348	-70,091
Decrease (-) / Increase (+) in payables	4.7	33,140	918,378
Decrease (-) / Increase (+) in accrued liabilities and deferred income	4.8	549,020	1,512,765
Decrease (-) / Increase (+) in short-term provisions		324,437	69,340
Cash flows from operating activities		1,997,693	187,732
Cash flows from investing activities			
		CHF	CHF
Outflows for purchase of tangible assets		-249,084	-363,834
Inflows from disposals of tangible assets		0	0
Outflows for purchase of intangible assets		-222,090	-171,771
Inflows from disposals of intangible assets		0	0
Cash flows from investing activities		-471,174	-535,605
Cash flows from financing activities			
	Notes	CHF	CHF
Payment of foundation capital		0	10,000,000
Increase (-) / Decrease (+) in current financial assets	4.1	-13,079,090	-10,700,000
Cash flows from financing activities		-13,079,090	-700,000
Change in cash and cash equivalents		-667,515	3,052,771
Cash and cash equivalents at 1/1 or 2020/05/18		3,052,771	0
Cash and cash equivalents at 12/31		2,385,256	3,052,771

Notes on the Financial Statements

1 General information

The Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern is a private organization based in Bern (Switzerland) and was established in 2020 as an independent foundation.

Rapid biodiversity losses, accelerated climate change and a growing demand for land resources – these developments and their consequences are closely interrelated. This is the area in which the Wyss Academy for Nature will be working; teams of scientists will join forces with experts and representatives from

the fields of policy, business and civil society on four continents to develop innovations aimed at protecting nature and ensuring that it is used sustainably.

The aims of the Wyss Academy for Nature will be addressed by four operational units and the synergies between them: regional hubs – in South America, East Africa, Southeast Asia and Switzerland (Canton of Bern) – will constitute the cornerstones for developing, testing and applying innovations for the protection of nature and its sustainable use.

2 Organization and Governance

The Board

The Foundation Board is called the “Board”.

The current members of the board are:

- Prof. Dr. Christian Leumann (President)
- André Nietlisbach (Vice-President)
- Dr. h.c. Hans-Jörg Wyss
- Prof. Dr. Peter Messerli
- Dr. Molly McUsic
- Johann Schneider-Ammann

Director and Deputy-Director

- Prof. Dr. Peter Messerli, Director
- Matthias Schmid-Huberty, COO and Deputy-Director

Auditor

- KPMG AG, Badenerstrasse 172, 8036 Zurich

3 Basis of preparation and accounting policies

Accounting standard

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Swiss GAAP FER – core FER as issued by the Swiss Foundation for Accounting and Reporting Recommendations and the Swiss Code of Obligations. These financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position, the cash flows and the operational results.

Currency and foreign currency transactions

The presentation currency is CHF (Swiss francs). Assets and liabilities in foreign currency are valued at the closing rate at the balance sheet date. Foreign currency transactions are recorded on initial recognition in the functional currency at the transaction rate. Exchange rate differences are recognized in the income statement.

Revenue recognition

Core funding from founding organizations is recognized in the period when the funding was provided as stipulated in the contract. Operating income from project and research contributions is recognized in the period when the services were provided.

Cash and cash equivalents

This item includes cash balance, post and bank deposits as well as time deposits and fiduciary deposits with a maturity of at most 90 days. These are presented as nominal values. Transactions in foreign currencies have been converted according to the daily exchange rates during the business year.

Receivables from services, other short-term receivables and financial assets

These are valued at their nominal value less impairment, if any. Significant receivables are to be valued individually and will be impaired if necessary.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets items are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of assets less their residual values over their estimated lifetime, using the straight-line method. The following annual rates are used for depreciation of tangible fixed assets:

- Furnishings: 8 years
- IT hardware/office machines: 5 years
- Investments in rented offices: 5 years

Fixed assets at costs less than CHF 1,000 are not capitalized. The capitalization of maintenance costs depends on whether they are value-preserving or value-adding respectively extending the useful life of the fixed asset.

If there is an indication that there has been a significant change in the depreciation rate, useful life or residual value of an asset, the depreciation of that asset is revised prospectively to reflect the new expectations.

Intangible assets

Intangible assets are purchased computer software that is measured at cost less accumulated amortization and any accumulated impairment losses. The software is amortized over its estimated useful lifetime of five years using the straight-line method.

Payables from goods and services and other short-term liabilities

Payables are recorded at their fair value, represented by the amount to pay.

Accrued liabilities and deferred income

This item includes the liabilities that result from the accrual accounting. These accrued liabilities are principally project payments for project activities that have not yet been carried out.

Short-term provisions

Provisions are determined based on impartial and economically reasonable principles. Risks are taken into account adequately.

Cash flow statement

The cash flow statement shows the changes in the cash and cash equivalents fund, divided into operating, investment and financing activities. It is presented according to the indirect method.

Associated organizations, individuals and institutions

The following organizations and individuals are regarded as associates:

- The Wyss Foundation, Washington
- University of Bern
- Canton of Bern
- Board and Management of The Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern

4 Details on the balance sheet and income statement

4.1 Current financial assets	12/31/2021	12/31/2020
	CHF	CHF
Current account University of Bern	23,779,090	10,700,000
Total current financial assets	23,779,090	10,700,000

The current account at the University of Bern is interest-free.

4.2 Receivables from services	12/31/2021	12/31/2020
	CHF	CHF
Canton of Bern	955,427	662,385
Third parties	3,421	3,410
Total receivables from services	958,848	665,795

4.3 Other short-term receivables	12/31/2021	12/31/2020
	CHF	CHF
University of Bern	0	1,471,789
Canton of Bern	24,281	32,863
Other short-term receivables third parties	59,146	33,400
Total other short-term receivables	83,427	1,538,052

4.4 Advance payments South Hub	12/31/2021	12/31/2020
	CHF	CHF
Advance payments Laos Hub	94,642	77,290
Advance payments Kenya Hub	38,557	47,128
Advance payments Peru Hub	27,699	0
Total advance payments South Hub	160,898	124,418

4.5 Tangible fixed assets	12/31/2021	12/31/2020
Net carrying amount	CHF	CHF
Furnishings	221,837	201,000
IT hardware / office machines	126,149	69,000
Investments in rented offices	98,604	37,000
Total tangible fixed assets	446,590	307,000

4.6 Intangible assets	12/31/2021	12/31/2020
Net carrying amount	CHF	CHF
Software	251,890	59,878
Right of use of hardware (server)	62,342	83,122
Total intangible assets	314,232	143,000

4.7 Payables from goods and services	12/31/2021	12/31/2020
	CHF	CHF
Payables third parties	176,828	470,842
Payables University of Bern	774,690	447,536
Total payables from goods and services	951,518	918,378

4.8 Accrued liabilities and deferred income	12/31/2021	12/31/2020
	CHF	CHF
Accrued liabilities third parties	290,168	49,313
Deferred income Canton of Bern	175,880	3,452
Deferred income University of Bern	385,737	0
Deferred income SDC	1,210,000	1,460,000
Total accrued liabilities and deferred income	2,061,785	1,512,765

The Wyss Academy for Nature received a program contribution from the SDC in 2020 in the amount of CHF 1,735,000 and CHF 500,000 in 2021. Thereof, CHF 275,000 was used to fund projects in the year 2020 and CHF 750,000 in the year 2021. Therefore CHF 1,210,000 was accrued as deferred income SDC.

4.9 Donor contributions	12/31/2021	12/31/2020
By donor	CHF	CHF
The Wyss Foundation	10,000,000	4,000,000
University of Bern	3,000,000	700,000
University of Bern (tied funds)	1,250,000	1,725,000
Swiss Development Cooperation (University of Bern – tied funds)	750,000	275,000
Canton of Bern	1,700,000	0
Canton of Bern (in kind contribution for office)	300,000	300,000
Total donor contributions	17,000,000	7,000,000

The funds contributed by SDC of CHF 750,000 (275,000) are counted to the tied funds contribution of the University of Bern. The Canton of Bern contributes CHF 300,000 (300,000) to finance the rent and the costs for the offices.

Payments to the foundation capital	12/31/2021	12/31/2020
By donor	CHF	CHF
The Wyss Foundation	0	6,000,000
University of Bern	0	2,300,000
Canton of Bern	0	1,700,000
Total payments to the foundation capital	0	10,000,000

Total payments to the (foundation capital and) donor contributions amount to CHF 17,000,000, of which CHF 10,000,000 are funded by the Wyss Foundation, CHF 5,000,000 by the University of Bern and CHF 2,000,000 by the Canton of Bern.

4.10 Income for implementation program Bern Hub	12/31/2021	12/31/2020
	CHF	CHF
Canton of Bern	1,908,847	568,331
Total income for implementation program Bern Hub	1,908,847	568,331

The Canton funds the implementation program for the Hub Bern to the value of CHF 30 million over ten years in accordance with the Cantonal Parliament resolution. If the total for the project amounts settled does not reach the average yearly tranches of CHF 3 million, the remaining funds will be released from the Cantonal Government within the framework of the approved global credit facility for subsequent years as part of the annual approval and financial planning process.

The accumulated remaining difference compared to the average for 2020 and 2021 results in CHF 3,522,822.

4.11 Project expenses	12/31/2021	12/31/2020
As per nature	CHF	CHF
Project expenses Regional Stewardship Hubs	-781,974	-237,377
Project expenses Hub Bern	-2,114,165	-648,113
Project expenses Transformational Research Teams	-572,878	0
Project expenses Science and Policy Outreach	-166,689	0
Project expenses Management Center	-92,362	0
Total Project expenses	-3,728,068	-885,490

4.12 Personnel expenses	12/31/2021	12/31/2020
As per nature	CHF	CHF
Personnel expenses Wyss Academy	-2,234,783	-369,637
Personnel expenses Regional Stewardship Hubs	-167,363	-309,004
Personnel expenses University of Bern (seconded)	-427,339	-1,076,502
Other personal expenses (Consultancies)	-187,215	-173,314
Social insurance expenses	-466,739	-114,455
Total personnel expenses	-3,483,439	-2,042,912

The Wyss Academy averagely employed 17.8 full time equivalent (FTE) in 2021. The resulted in 24 FTE's at the end of the year (30 persons).

4.13 Other operating expenses	12/31/2021	12/31/2020
As per nature	CHF	CHF
Maintenance and rent	-234,704	-300,354
IT costs	-114,805	-20,118
Insurance	-7,074	-10,749
Marketing and public relations	-122,139	-13,907
Other	-428,330	-200,155
Total other operating expenses	-907,052	-545,283

5 Expenses by business unit

	12/31/2021	12/31/2020
South East Asia Hub	CHF	CHF
Personnel expenses Partners	0	-49,829
Personnel expenses University of Bern (seconded)	0	-127,105
Project expenses	-160,844	-45,987
Other operating expenses	-376	0
Total expenses South East Asia Hub	-161,220	-222,921
East Africa Hub	CHF	CHF
Personnel expenses Wyss Academy	-167,363	-125,387
Personnel expenses Partners	0	-133,788
Personnel expenses University of Bern (seconded)	0	-106,997
Project expenses	-312,965	-127,731
Other operating expenses	-15,032	0
Total expenses East Africa Hub	-495,360	-493,903
South America Hub	CHF	CHF
Personnel expenses Wyss Academy	-3,474	0
Personnel expenses University of Bern (seconded)	0	-46,997
Project expenses	-189,467	-63,660
Other operating expenses	-440	0
Total expenses South America Hub	-193,381	-110,657
Regional Stewardship Hubs	CHF	CHF
Personnel expenses Wyss Academy	-417,472	-52,007
Project expenses	-118,698	0
Other operating expenses	-34,099	0
Total expenses Regional Stewardship Hubs	-570,269	-52,007
Bern Hub	CHF	CHF
Personnel expenses Wyss Academy	-363,160	-66,376
Personnel expenses University of Bern (seconded)	0	-84,107
Project expenses	-2,114,165	-648,113
Other operating expenses	-358	0
Total expenses Bern Hub	-2,477,683	-798,596

Science and Policy Outreach	CHF	CHF
Personnel expenses Wyss Academy	-476,243	0
Personnel expenses University of Bern (seconded)	0	-57,598
Project expenses	-166,689	0
Other operating expenses	-1,271	0
Total expenses Science and Policy Outreach	-644,203	-57,598
Transformational Research Teams	CHF	CHF
Personnel expenses Wyss Academy	-379,167	0
Personnel expenses University of Bern (seconded)	0	-294,945
Project expenses	-572,878	0
Other operating expenses	-28,812	0
Total expenses Transformational Research Teams	-980,857	-294,945
Management Center	CHF	CHF
Personnel expenses Wyss Academy	-1,676,560	-598,932
Personnel expenses University of Bern (seconded)	0	-125,530
Project expenses	-92,362	0
Consultancies	0	-173,314
Other operating expenses	-848,220	-545,283
Depreciation of tangible and intangible assets	-138,795	-85,604
Total expenses Management Center	-2,755,937	-1,528,663
Grand total expenses all business units	-8,278,910	-3,559,290

Looking at the spending of the Wyss Academy from a business unit perspective, the volume in the Regional Stewardships Hubs increased by more than 60 % to CHF 1.42 million (CHF 0.88 million). In the Bern Hub, expenditures more than tripled to CHF 2.47 million (0.8 million). The Science and Policy Outreach activities only started at the beginning of 2021 and accounted for CHF 0.64 million (0.06 million), while the majority of the innovation and research teams were recruited and started work during the year, resulting in a factor of 3.3 compared to the previous year despite the relatively low expenditure of CHF 0.98 million. The Management Centre implemented the institutional set-up with a volume of CHF 2.76 million (1.53 million), which corresponds to a growth of 80 %.

6 Approval financial statements

The financial statements were approved for publication by the Board on 19th May 2022.

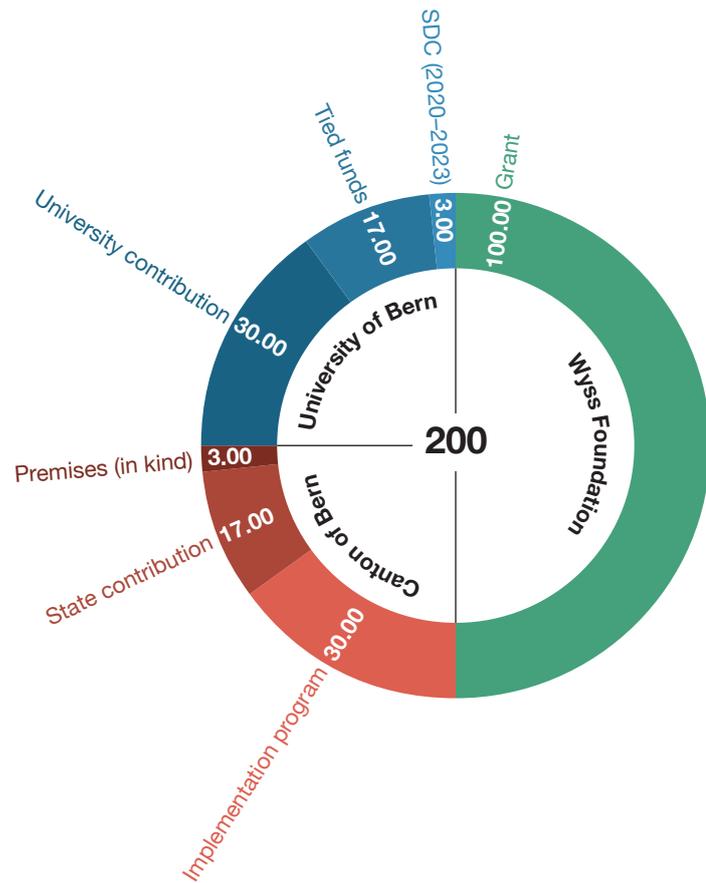
7 Subsequent events

There were no events after the balance sheet date that would have resulted in an adjustment of the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities to the annual financial statement.

Funding

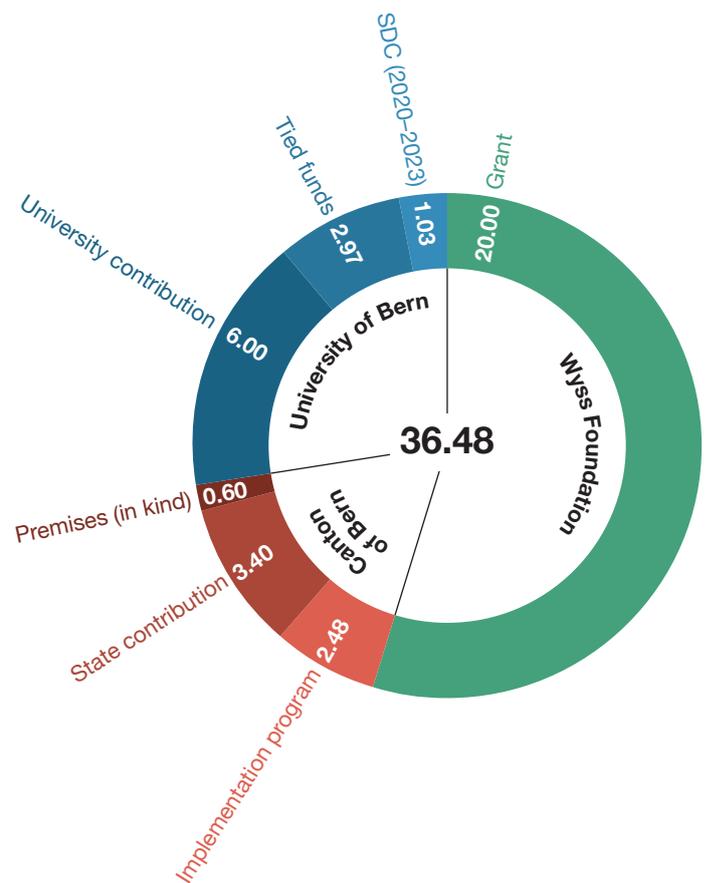
2020–2029

in million CHF



2020–2021

in million CHF



in million CHF

Donor	Purpose	Overall Committed	Avg. per year	Up to 2020	Income 2021	Total	Remaining commitment 2022–2029
Wyss Foundation	Grant	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	20.00	80.00
Canton of Bern	Implementation program	30.00	3.00	0.57	1.91	2.48	27.52
	State contribution	17.00	1.70	1.70	1.70	3.40	13.60
	Premises (in kind)	3.00	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.60	2.40
University of Bern	University contribution	30.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	6.00	24.00
	Tied funds	17.00	1.70	1.73	1.25	2.97	14.03
	SDC (2020–2023)	3.00	0.30	0.28	0.75	1.03	1.98
Total		200.00	20.00	17.57	18.91	36.48	163.52

Auditor's Report



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Report of the Statutory Auditor on the Limited Statutory Examination to the Board of the Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern, Bern

As statutory auditor, we have examined the financial statements shown on page 4 to 15 (balance sheet, income statement, cash flow statement, statement of changes in capital and notes) of Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern for the year ended 31 December 2021.

The board is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER, the requirements of Swiss law, the foundation's charter and regulations. Our responsibility is to perform a limited statutory examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swiss law.

We conducted our examination in accordance with the Swiss Standard on the Limited Statutory Examination. This standard requires that we plan and perform a limited statutory examination to identify material misstatements in the financial statements. A limited statutory examination consists primarily of inquiries of personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of documents of the unit as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of operational processes and the internal control system, as well as inquiries and further testing procedures to detect fraud or other legal violations, are not within the scope of this examination.

Based on our limited statutory examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not give a true and fair view of the financial position, the results of operations and the cash flows in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER and do not comply with Swiss law and the foundation's charter and regulations.

KPMG AG

Reto Kaufmann
Licensed Audit Expert
Auditor in Charge

Michael Herzog
Licensed Audit Expert

Zurich, 19 May 2022

Acknowledgements

Publisher

Wyss Academy for Nature

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