

MISSION REPORT 2011

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2011



CONSERVATION OF
NATURAL RESOURCES
AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT



*Conservation
of Natural
Resources
and Sustainable
Development*





To Guido

On the 20th of November 2011, among the mountains tops of Piedmont's Val Formazza, Guido passed away.

This mission report is dedicated to his memory, with the renewed commitment of implementing, in accomplishing our objectives, his recommendations and professional approach, working with accuracy and commitment, as he taught us by his daily example.

Guido Tosi, academic, expert in the management and conservation of fauna and the environment, colleague, partner in adventures and dreams, provided an essential contribution to the establishment, growth and success of Istituto Oikos.

Guido's human and professional qualities allowed for environmental and faunal conservation to be effectively combined with development cooperation. This trait d'union is a defining characteristic of Professor Tosi's career: he succeeded in merging the research world, that of theoretical and notional judgments, with the conservation world, which applies theory in the field very practically, obtaining the approval of all regional management bodies and understanding in-depth the needs of all stakeholders, including the complex necessities of people in the south of the world, who are often the guardians of incredibly valuable natural resources.

The desire to experience different cultural contexts led Guido to work a great deal abroad, particularly in Africa, where his practical approach, his expertise and his ability to be well liked by the most diverse people, allowed him and Oikos to develop innovative strategies for the management of natural resources, built on solid technical/scientific bases, but also capable of considering the complex socio-economic situation of Sub-Saharan Africa. Thanks to Guido's contribution, there is now a consolidated group of people in Northern Tanzania, who made him very proud, working day after day to reduce poverty through the sustainable management of natural resources.

He was also very proud of "his group", which, after that tragic day, we like to call, even more proudly, "the Tosi Group"; a group of people who recognized in him a human and professional role model, with whom he always managed the different activities in close collaboration, sharing objectives and supporting individual talents.

His memory and his example will always guide our endless efforts to formulate new strategies and to open up to new horizons, confident that being inspired by responsibility, respect, coherence, participation and scientific accuracy will help us in taking a few small steps towards a world where the needs of humans and the environment can finally find a greater balance.

Istituto Oikos' staff



Letter from the President and General Director

Climate change, soil degradation and loss of biodiversity are becoming increasingly sensitive issues for all human beings. Some significant progress has been made: the economic value associated with the services that ecosystems offer us is now an accepted principle; new methods of production and consumption of energy are quickly spreading, while some key production sectors, such as transport, have become more sensitive to the principles of sustainability. However, none of this seems capable of containing the damages that we continue to cause to our environment and to our future. The big question remains: how and when can an effective transition towards sustainable production and lifestyles occur? And also: will the value that we now give to the environment and forests, to cultural diversity and local knowledge, help the poorest people to escape the poverty trap? Or will it be yet another obstacle to seeing their right to use natural resources recognized?

We are aware that the path towards a more fair and aware of environmental issues planet does not depend only upon decisions, albeit critical, taken at international conferences and by commitments accepted by governments, but that it also depends upon the vast and varied network of smaller practical experiences gained in local contexts, in line with the needs of those who are at the forefront in trialing effective and viable ways of using natural resources. It depends upon how much the seeds of change are able to take root in people's minds and hearts. It depends upon how much civil society will rely upon and be involved in a process of transformation that seems inevitable but that requires enlightened leadership.

This mission report is intended to share our experience in 2011, our research for practical solutions to save energy, conserve soil and forests or to nourish more consistently everyone's needs. It is a path that begins in Lambrate, the area of Milan in which the Istituto Oikos is based, and unwinds and develops in those territories where we have worked for years: Tanzania, with the communities that live on the slopes of Mount Meru, or Myanmar, with the farmers and fishermen who live along the coast of Rakhine or on the island of Lampi.

We want to grow our common roots, but also leave room for spreading our wings. We want to build, together with our partners in Italy and in the southern hemisphere, a laboratory of experiences but also of thoughts, ideas and innovative messages. We want to play a practical role in the transformation of some smaller entities, so that we never lose touch with everyday reality. But also to allow our dreams, which often remain buried in our daily work, to re-emerge to give us the strength and resources to face the changes with confidence.

President and General Director

Rossella Rossi



The mission report is our travel diary.

It summarizes the 2011 activities.

It tells our story and describes our dreams and our objectives.

It helps us to focus on our strengths and understand our weaknesses.

It presents our work with clarity, accuracy and data transparency.

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travel diary



OIKOS'S VISION

A future in which ecology, economy and equity come together to reconcile the needs of humans and the environment

OIKOS'S MISSION

To contribute to preserving ecosystems and supporting development through professionalism, innovation and participation

About us

Istituto Oikos is a non-profit, independent and non-religious organization, founded in 1996 in Milan. We operate in Europe and in developing countries to safeguard **biodiversity**, promote responsible management of **natural resources** and the widespread adoption of more sustainable lifestyles as tools for social and economic **development** and for fighting poverty.

Our values, our tools

We believe in the importance of using an **integrated approach** to tackling issues linked to environmental conservation and sustainable development. This is why we work on different levels that all form one coherent framework, using a variety of tools that strengthen each other: analysis, participatory planning and management of natural resources, awareness-raising, training, projects aimed at strengthening the economic self-sufficiency of disadvantaged communities and the role of women.

We promote and manage development projects, cooperation programs and partnerships between organizations in the North and South of the world, activities for the creation of micro-enterprises in the environmental sector, and educational initiatives promoting sustainability.

Projects implemented

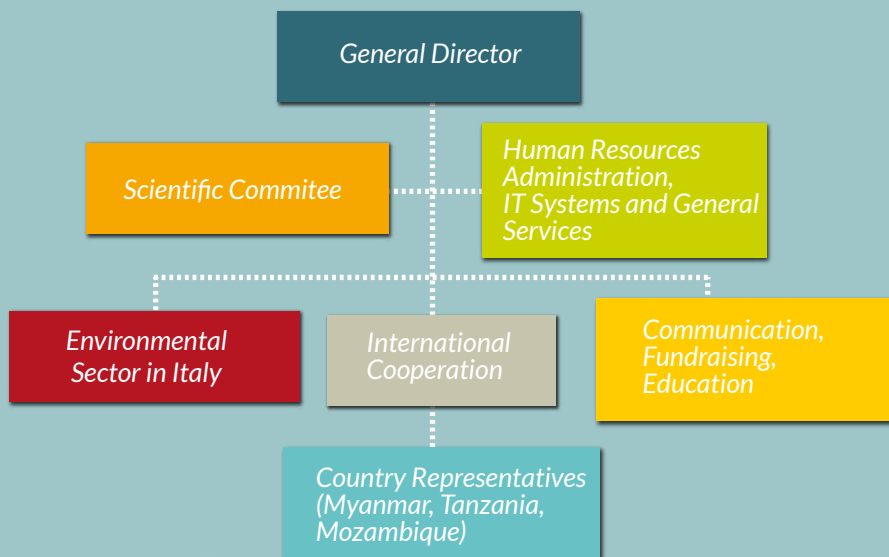
From 1996 to date, we have developed 205 projects in Italy, Europe and 11 countries across Asia, Africa and South America.

In 2011 our engagement grew stronger, particularly in Asia and in Europe, in the sector of educating for sustainability. A new and promising project was also launched in Mozambique, while Italy and Tanzania still remain our predominant intervention areas.

In 2011 we implemented 34 projects (1 in Brazil, 1 in Mozambique, 5 in Myanmar, 9 in Tanzania and 18 in Italy); the European projects of educating for sustainability and co-development also involved partner organizations in Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, UK, Poland, Laos, Cambodia, Brazil and Tanzania.

The operational structure

Our organizational chart shows the staff's distribution in three functional macro-areas (Environmental sector in Italy; International Cooperation; Communication, Fundraising, Education), that are coordinated and supervised by the General Director, the Scientific Committee and Administration. Communication with Oikos' local branches is managed by the International Cooperation office with the support of Administration.



Local branches and staff

Istituto Oikos' operational headquarters is in Milan.

The organization has also local branches in Tanzania and Myanmar.

In 2010, the Italian staff of Istituto Oikos in Milan consisted of 4 employees, 1 intern, 6 advisers and 20 project collaborators. Staff in the local branches consisted of 39 people, making **a total of 70 people working with us**, divided as follows:

MYANMAR (Yangon): 3 expatriates , 8 local staff

TANZANIA (Arusha): 5 expatriates, 31 local staff

MOZAMBIQUE (Pemba): 1 expatriate

ITALY (Milan): 4 employees (3 part-time), 11 project collaborators, 1 intern, 6 advisers.

Credits and membership

Credits

- Officially recognized Association (Prefecture of Varese)
- Acknowledged as a not-for-profit organization (Onlus) in accordance with the Italian Decree 760/97.
- Acknowledged as a development NGO by the Italian Foreign Office in accordance with the Italian Law No. 49/87.

Membership

- EnergyLab
- European Commission Campaign "Sustainable Energy for Europe"
- Italian Coalition of UN Global Call Against Poverty (GCAP)
- Italian Network of Development NGOs
- Lombardy Region Network of Development NGOs (CoLomba)
- World Conservation Union - IUCN



Milan, Italy



Arusha, Tanzania



Yangon, Myanmar



Our history

1996 MILAN, ITALY. Istituto Oikos was established by a group of biologists and naturalists. Thanks to the technical and scientific skills of its founders, Oikos started its journey focusing on the conservation and management of Alpine flora and fauna, developing strong and long-lasting partnerships with local authorities and universities and soon becoming specialists in the environmental field.

1997 TANZANIA. Istituto Oikos' first international project was based upon analyzing the migratory movements of large mammals and their interactions with anthropic activities in the Tarangire National Park, in the north of the country, with the aim of contributing to the definition of a sustainable development strategy for the area.

1999 OIKOS EAST AFRICA was opened as Oikos' local headquarters and was later recognized as a local NGO in Tanzania, confirming the stable presence of the organization in east Africa. Liaising and working in synergy with the beneficiaries of the projects, the requirement then arose to extend the organization's activities from the protection of flora and fauna to soil conservation and, as a result, to sustainable agriculture.

2000 LOCAL ECONOMY. For the purposes of combating poverty, Oikos started to support the development and consolidation of small income-generating activities based on the sustainable use of natural resources.

2003 EDUCATING FOR SUSTAINABILITY has always been a strategic goal of Istituto Oikos and has become over the years an internal sector of its own, aimed at increasing public awareness of the connection between the environment and human lives, both in the North and South of the world.

2004 WATER and water management are essential to the survival of all forms of life. Promoting access to this precious element increasing its quality and reducing water wastage became priorities for Istituto Oikos, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa.

2006 FOOD SAFETY. Oikos includes among its activities the commitment to ensure the nutritional, organoleptic and hygienic quality of food, through training and communication campaigns in the South of the world.

2007 ASIA. Oikos was asked to collaborate in a project to integrate the environmental component into the process of sustainable development in the cross-border area of Dzungarian Gobi, between China and Mongolia. In the same year the organization became involved in a project to support the management of the Lampi Marine National Park. This is how Istituto Oikos' activities in Asia began.

2008 ENERGY and energy efficiency are another key element in the preservation of resources, particularly with respect to the problem of deforestation in developing countries and wastage in developed countries. In 2008, many Italian and international projects were launched to address this issue at all levels, from Maasai villages to European cities.

2009 4 CONTINENTS were covered by the organization's activities. Oikos is in fact active also in Brazil, where it supports ecotourism and sustainable entrepreneurship, paying special attention to young people.

2011 MOZAMBIQUE. Oikos began to operate in a new country: a challenge that started with the attempt to guarantee the conservation of the Quirimbas National Park, in the coastal area to the north of the country.

How we work

Regional plans, wildlife monitoring, programs for responsible tourism, aqueducts or photovoltaic plants: all our interventions in all fields share one common objective. **We want to make city dwellers, rural communities and public institutions more aware about environmental protection.**

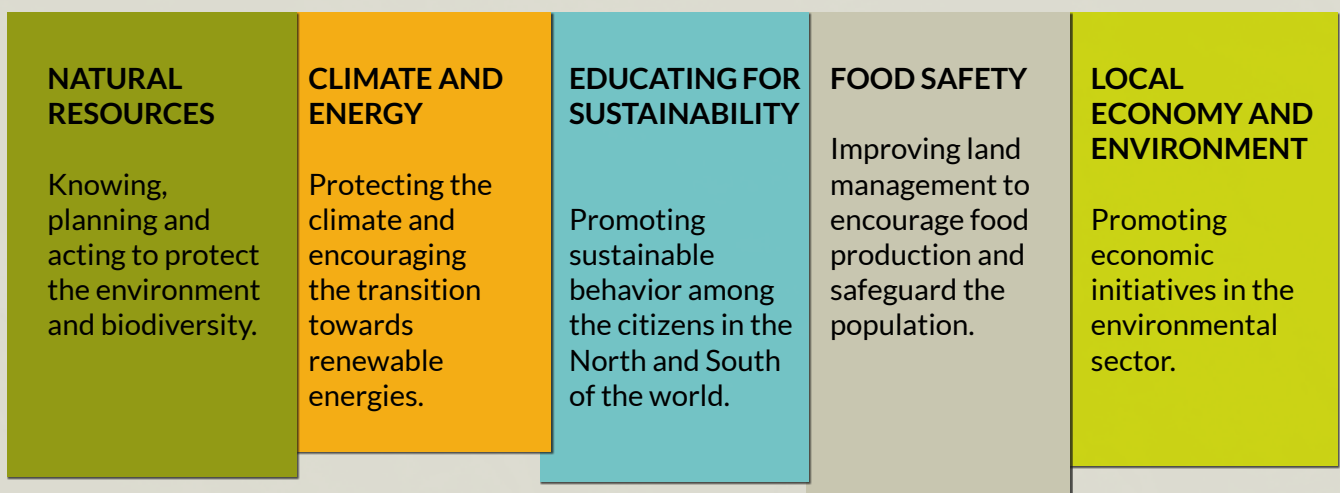
One thing is certain: **careful attention to the preservation of “natural capital” is the basis for any development process.** In the rural areas of the South of the world, there is a direct relationship between poverty and inappropriate, unsustainable management of natural resources.

Istituto Oikos always strives to operate using **integrated, long-term programs** in a number of specific natural areas where it can rely upon good basic knowledge, on **solid and lasting partnerships** and on the possibility of **monitoring the success and sustainability** of its activities over time.

The Alps in Italy, the Maasai Steppe Heartland in Tanzania and the coastal area of Myanmar are a few examples.

The sectors of intervention

In order to foster biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in Italy and across the world we adopt a systemic and interdisciplinary approach that includes the following sectors of intervention:



Understanding the situation; acting to change it; spreading and monitoring the results

Our work can be divided into **three parts** which are often interrelated: **a learning stage**, to acquire the basic elements needed to develop our work together with the local communities; **an operational stage** involving a number of investments and concrete actions; and a **critical analysis of results stage**, supported by careful work on indicators and culminating in the spreading of good practices.

We mainly work in **fragile natural environments** that are exposed to climate change and to increasing, poorly-controlled anthropic pressure. At the same time, these environments are valuable in ecological terms due to their rich biodiversity or the services that the ecosystems offer in terms of climate stabilization, water drainage and the supply of raw materials.

In these areas, Istituto Oikos develops, by **working together with the local population** and cooperating with local, national and international institutions and organizations, projects based upon **innovation** and experimentation, as well as **practical, sustainable** actions, scientific methodology and the application of the principles of **equity, solidarity and multiculturalism**.

International cooperation

Development through the defense of nature

Oikos considers cooperation for development to be closely linked to the issue of protecting natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems. A healthy environment can in fact ensure food safety and access to water sources, as well as increasing “resilience”, that is the ability to respond appropriately to unexpected events, such as those caused by climate changes.

We mainly work in rural areas, inside or in the immediate vicinity of protected areas, where natural environments are particularly fragile and their protection is jeopardized by inadequate and unsustainable practices and behaviors. In order to foster socio-economic development and to increase the quality of life of the most vulnerable groups, we provide our expertise in the environmental field to local communities and authorities, focusing in particular on key issues such as soil conservation and sustainable agriculture, water and forests management, environmental monitoring, use of renewable energy sources and development of small scale income-generating activities in the environmental and responsible tourism sectors.

We develop all our programs in close collaboration with the beneficiaries of the projects, in respect of local values and traditions. In order to ensure the long-term sustainability of our interventions we always invest in professional training and education, involving all stakeholders, from children to parents, from women to officers of the local authorities and representatives of the civil society.

In 2011 we consolidated our presence in **Mozambique**. Thanks to the project “The Quirimbas’ treasure”, funded by the municipality of Milan and implemented by Muindi Semi del Sorriso in partnership with Oikos, we launched a number of new collaborations with local and international bodies and associations with the goal of creating new opportunities for the development of the responsible tourism sector in the Quirimbas National Park.

However, **most of our resources and our greatest commitments** are still in **Tanzania** and **Myanmar**, where we have been working for many years, with specific strategies.

Tanzania

Istituto Oikos has been active in Tanzania since 1996. For the last 10 years we have been working mainly in the Mount Meru area, a large territory situated along the eastern limit of the Rift Valley, not far from the city of Arusha, and affected by the presence of Mount Meru (4,564 meters), a dormant volcano covered with a dense forest that plays a key role in the climatic balance of the area and in supplying water to roughly 500,000 people living in the area. The Meru farmers and Maasai shepherds who live on the fertile slopes of Mount Meru or in the vast surrounding savannahs and who base their survival on the use of natural resources are finding it increasingly difficult to find a balance between the urgency of satisfying their own needs and the need to preserve the natural heritage.

Through an **integrated approach**, Istituto Oikos is committed to defining, testing and promoting strategies and technologies that may assist local communities to use their own resources (water, soil, forests) for production (agriculture, raising livestock, but also tourism) in the most efficient and sustainable way. To achieve this objective, we act simultaneously on different levels:

1. The **community** level, through training activities in the traditional economic sectors (agriculture and raising livestock) and through the promotion of new income-generating activities in the environmental sector (i.e. eco-tourism, renewable energies, organic agriculture).
2. The **institutional** level (District, Ward, village) through the implementation of innovative and easy to use tools (i.e. land management plans, databases, maps) and the improvement of strategic services such as water, food safety and environmental conservation.
3. The **scientific** level, through the involvement of research centers, local and international universities and the promotion of cultural exchanges.

In 2011 we successfully concluded 2 major projects in the renewable energy and food safety sectors: *Best Ray Bringing Energy Service in Tanzania Rural Area* and *Improvement of food safety and nutritional status in Maasai steppes of Northern Tanzania, by applying sustainable farming technologies*.

Thanks to *Best Ray*, the rural villages of the Oldonyosambu and Ngarenanyuki Wards are now equipped with 50 photovoltaic plants, 25 domestic biogas plants, more than 200 energy-efficient stoves and 2 waterwheels (4

kilowatts each). The entire community, roughly **39,000 people**, has now **improved access to energy** in schools, public spaces and offices, also thanks to the establishment of 2 CERCs (Community Energy Resource Centres) that provide energy services to an average of 40 people per day.

The second project contributed, through awareness-raising and training activities on correct nutrition and sustainable agriculture, to **increasing food safety** for about **5,400 people** in the rural areas around Mount Meru. The initiative inspired 214 families to start home-growing activities, 850 farmers to adopt the suggested new technologies, 65 producers groups to convert to applying sustainable production practices and it is estimated that the use of pesticides has reduced by 4-6 times.

Schools also played an important role in our activities in the area: in 17 primary schools we improved the water and sanitation services, kitchens and created fruit and vegetable gardens and drip irrigation systems. We implemented an awareness-raising campaign on correct nutrition aimed at students, teachers and families. Moreover, to increase hygiene and sanitation standards and people's **access to water** we are carrying out a vast program in the Arusha Region. We have established 13 Water Committees for the community management of the water distribution system and built 5 troughs, 13 km of waterworks and 30 latrines. Our awareness-raising campaign on health and hygiene reached 26 schools in the intervention area, with more than **2,400 students**. In 2011 we also started a new ambitious water project in an area between Mount Meru and Mount Kilimanjaro, where we will build a 200 km long water distribution system that will take drinkable water to the residents of 14 villages (**more than 40,000 people**) between Arusha National Park and Kilimanjaro airport.



Myanmar

We have been operating in Myanmar since 2006, with the aim of improving the conservation of natural resources and strengthening the technical skills of local NGOs. Myanmar is a country where natural resources are still well-conserved, biodiversity is high and forests cover almost half the national territory. As natural areas are progressively being destroyed under different types of human pressure, it is becoming increasingly urgent to **maintain and improve the condition and management of protected areas**. The protected areas system is essential to continue providing environmental services at community and national level, to prevent climate change and biodiversity loss and to protect their key role within the country's culture, spiritual life and historical traditions. Understanding the intrinsic value of Myanmar protected areas is crucial to effectively redefine and improve existing management practices.

The current environmental protection framework shows critical legal and institutional constraints, including very sector-specific laws that often go beyond the technical and financial ability of the relevant government agencies.

The future success of environmental protection in Myanmar depends on the formulation of **policies that reflect a more integrated approach to the management of resources**, as well as on the improved coordination between stakeholders and the allocation of the necessary resources for policy implementation.

2011 has been an important year for Istituto Oikos in Myanmar. We have completed the national environmental project “*Strengthening environmental NGOs in Burma/Myanmar*”, which allowed us to carry out a critical analysis of the status of Myanmar protected areas. We have also strengthened our presence and operations in two field areas, the **Myeik archipelago** (South Myanmar) and **Rakhine state** (West Myanmar). In the Myeik archipelago, our project brought further improvements to the bio-inventory of the Lampi Marine National Park and allowed us to continue our multi-stakeholders consultations for the development of a joint **park management plan** which will be finalized and implemented in 2012-2013.

In Rakhine state, we have been working to increase knowledge and sustainable management of marine and forest resources in the Gwa and Thandwe townships, promoting an extensive environmental education program reaching over **7,000 students** and **4,000 villagers**. Furthermore, the construction of the **Environmental Education Center** in Kyeintali has been completed and furnished with a library, a museum and a meeting room managed by the local Rakhine Conservation Association (RCA).

4 forest users-groups completed the mapping of 800 hectares of mangrove and evergreen forest and prepared **4 forest management plans** that were submitted to the Myanmar Forest Department for the granting of 30-year leases.

Finally, a new project was launched, funded by the Milan municipality, to support the creation of **28 community vegetable gardens and orchards** in public schools, promoting local species of tropical fruits and vegetables and farming techniques that are able to enhance productivity and environmental sustainability.

The project of the year: strengthening the skills of Myanmar's civil society to safeguard biodiversity and sustainable development

During the period 2009-2011, Istituto Oikos and BANCA (Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association), with the support of the European Union, the Lombardy Region and Stiftung Drittes Millennium, developed the Myanmar Environmental Project (MEP) aimed at improving the ability of local NGOs to engage in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development programs. The main output of MEP is the publication “**Myanmar Protected Areas: Context, Current Status and Challenges**”, available online on Oikos' website. The book presents information on the status of Myanmar protected areas and in-depth studies of Lampi Island Marine National Park and Rakhine Yoma Elephant Range Wildlife Reserve. The maps and information collected on natural resources, management, tourism, land use and research, in accordance with internationally-approved criteria and standards, are also organized in a **database** available to stakeholders.



Myanmar has some of the richest biodiversity in Asia, but available information on the status of the 43 officially-recognized protected areas is poor and sporadic. Oikos' field survey in the Lampi Island Marine National Park allowed for the identification of 195 species of plants of the evergreen forest, 63 mangroves and associated species, 19 mammals, 228 birds, 19 reptiles, 10 amphibians. The marine resources included 333 plankton species, 73 seaweeds, 11 seagrass, 50 gastropods, 42 crabs, 41 bivalves, 35 sea cucumbers and 42 fish species. 29 of the species identified have never been recorded in Myanmar (1 phytoplankton, 7 zooplanktons, 2 seagrasses, 1 mangrove tree, 7 fishes, 3 amphibians, 8 birds).



environment

Environmental conservation in Italy

The value of biodiversity

The conservation of natural resources has always represented the core issue for Istituto Oikos' programs, both in Italy and abroad.

In Italy we mainly work in the **Lombardy** and **Piedmont** regions. Our environmental protection activities mostly focus on **land use planning** and on **collaborating with local authorities**, such as parks and Provinces, for the promotion of conservation strategies applicable in different territorial contexts.

The permanent synergy with the "**Guido Tosi Research Group**", Unit of Analysis and Management of Natural Resources of the University of Insubria, further strengthens the scientific approach of all our interventions.

In 2011 we particularly focused on initiatives for the planning and integration of territorial policies in the **Natura 2000 network**, not only as a key strategy for biodiversity conservation but also for the development of sustainable tourism programs. It is in fact important to find a balance between awareness-raising on the value of biodiversity and the ecological needs of flora and fauna species that the network safeguards.

For 15 years our knowledge and technical-scientific skills have been at the local authorities' disposal to support their role as key player in contributing to the European effort to **stop biodiversity loss**.

The project of the year: Natura 2000 network in Alto Garda Park

We have been working, since 2009, on the *Conservation and Management of the Natura 2000 network in the Alto Garda Park: environmental activities and awareness-raising for biodiversity conservation and valorization* project, funded by Cariplo Foundation and implemented in partnership with ERSAF Lombardia and the Alto Garda Park.

The objective is to encourage connection and integration between the different areas of particular importance for biodiversity conservation by strengthening the Natura 2000 network. **The project interests five "Sites of Community Importance" (SCI)** in the Alto Garda National Park area: the SCI Mount Cas Punta Color, the SCI Cima Comer, the SCI Valvestino, the SCI Corno della Marogna and the SPA Alto Garda Park.

Our program includes on one hand tangible actions such as the rehabilitation of abandoned grasslands and the maintenance of clearings; on the other hand the **creation of a Web GIS**, a mapping and analysis tool with georeferenced cartography data which can be used to carry out the incidence studies required by the Natura 2000 network.

We have also been involved in awareness-raising activities to **increase people's understanding** of the importance of Natura 2000: we implemented educational meetings in the schools of the area and we produced informative and display material for both adults and children to be used at the Passo Spino ornithological observatory in the Alto Garda Park.





Natura 2000 is a network of Sites of Community Importance (SCI) created in 1992 by the European Union with the aim of protecting and conserving the natural habitats and animal and vegetable species identified as priorities by the member states. The network aims to guarantee the survival of particularly important species and habitats in terms of biodiversity, also taking into account the socio-economic and cultural needs of the specific areas, in the framework of a sustainable development.

Educating for sustainability

A future to be built together

The main goal of Istituto Oikos education and communication activities is to promote "eco-friendly" lifestyles. We want to stimulate citizens to adopt more correct behaviors and to contribute in building a better future for present and future generations.

Our sustainability education activities are aimed at people of all ages and professions and developed within all kinds of education institutions: school, family, the workplace, the media. We implement **educational paths** for schools and citizens; **we realize workshops and training initiatives**; we produce **teaching and informative materials**; we organize seminars, conventions and **public events**.

It is necessary to educate on sustainability understood as an opportunity and a challenge: it is no longer enough to know the environment better in order to behave more responsibly towards it. Just as it is not enough merely to be aware, if we do not possess the right tools for responsible action and finally, if we are not directly involved in making changes.

Therefore, the commitment of Istituto Oikos is mainly focused on **encouraging an education that creates active citizenship and responsibility** and on **involving organizations, institutions and communities in the processes of engendering cultural change**.

2011 was a particularly important year due to the launch of two projects linked to the themes of **sustainable agriculture** and **food chain**: *Seeds of Sustainability*, a project aimed at encouraging the practice of growing vegetables at home in the Province of Varese and in the Zone 3 of Milan, and *Food We Want*, which aims at stimulating international debate and correct information on good agricultural practices as tools to combat hunger and climate change. The reflection on production and food consumption quickly aroused interest in citizens, as evidenced by the **400 registrations** to the vegetable gardens project.

Coming into its second year of life, on the other hand, is *Rifiutili Insubrici*, an initiative implemented as part of *Modus Riciclandi*, a large project involving the Province of Varese and the Ticino Canton in the search for new **paths of responsibility on waste and recycling issues**. In this regard, **700 pedagogical kits** were produced, along with a itinerant **educational exhibition** which opened in January 2012 in Varese.

This year was finally characterized by the concluding stages of *Energy for Life*, a project that involved partners in Italy, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Malta, Tanzania, Cambodia, Brazil and Laos with the aim of **promoting energy efficiency** and renewable energies in Europe and in developing countries. Its activities included: the creation of a database of good practices in the sector of renewable energies (**14,181 mapped projects**), the launch of the Energy for Life Best Practice Award and an online game to reach out to young people on the theme of energy efficiency (there have been 4,434 registrations to the website); the organization of Energy days, public events at which about 8,000 people participated.

The project of the year: Rifiutili Insubrici

Rifiutili Insubrici is a three-year project funded by Interreg, 2007-2013 Italy-Switzerland Cross-Border Cooperation Program "Opportunities have no borders" and implemented by Istituto Oikos in partnership with the Province of Varese, the University of Insubria, the Canton Waste Company and the Ticino Canton. The aim is to teach children and teenagers, in a fun and creative way, **everything there is to know about waste**, emphasizing in particular the steps that everyone can take to produce less trash, **protecting the territory and reducing the impact of humans on the planet**. We started with young people in order to spread throughout the population a culture of sustainability, encouraging responsible consumption behaviors in schools and families. We use many tools: creative workshops, educational paths, a teaching kit for elementary schools and a multi-media kit for secondary schools.

As first project activity, we established and opened a recreational, educational and itinerant exhibition on the theme of waste. "*Ri come...conoscere e giocare con i rifiuti*" takes visitors on a journey aimed at better understanding what waste is through videos, giant installations, interactive games, teaching displays and products in recycled material. The exhibition is mainly meant for schools, but also for adults and children of all ages. Approximately 1,000 people have already visited the exhibition in Villa Recalcatti (Varese), the first of the 5 locations scheduled for the exhibition between Italy and Switzerland.

To find out more, visit the project website: **www.modusriciclandi.info**

As part of the waste exhibition, a recreational exhibition on critical consumption, reduction, recovery and recycling of waste, we created some short videos, disseminated also via youtube, which explain how many resources are consumed by objects of daily use, such as a stack of paper or a packet of spaghetti. An example? A t-shirt bought in Italy, whose cotton was grown in Turkey, woven in Indonesia, processed and printed in the United States, has consumed as much water as a family of four drinks in a year (2,910 liters) and has traveled 31,535 kilometers, emitting 28,831 grams of CO₂, as much as those emitted by a small car traveling from Zurich to Milan!



2011 ongoing projects

Title	Country	Main Sector	Main Sponsor	Total budget	Main sponsor budget	Costs 2011
Ibex Project	Italy	Natural resources	Sondrio and Bergamo Provinces	€ 52,000	€ 52,000	€ 31,364
Production of a DVD on ungulates of hunting and faunal interest in the Lombardy Region	Italy	Natural resources	IREALP	€ 18,333	€ 18,333	€ 3,333
Hare monitoring	Italy	Natural resources	CAC Alpi Lecchesi	€ 760	€ 760	€ 760
Conservation and management of Natura 2000 network in the Alto Garda Park	Italy	Natural resources	Alto Garda Park	€ 350,000	€ 79,860	€ 28,588
Draft and editing for the updates to the SAC plans in Pavia Province	Italy	Natural resources	Pavia Province	€ 116,000	€ 116,000	€ 882
Draft of the report on fauna in the Sites of EU interest in Livigno municipality	Italy	Natural resources	Sondrio Province	€ 40,250	€ 40,250	€ 7,246
Analysis of the impact of forest management strategies on common squirrel population (<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>)	Italy	Natural resources	Orobic Valtellinesi Park	€ 8,333	€ 8,333	€ 5,202
Safeguarding and monitoring of red squirrel (<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>)	Italy	Natural resources	Sondrio Province	€ 2,500	€ 2,500	€ 829
Feasibility study to revise the boundaries of protected areas in Ossola Valley	Italy	Natural resources	VCO Province	€ 100,350	€ 76,225	€ 75,675
Lomellina heronries fruition plan	Italy	Natural resources	GAL Lomellina	€ 30,000	€ 30,000	€ 4,200
Maasai Women's Art	Italy	Natural resources; local economy and environment	Private donors	€ 3,136	€ 3,136	€ 3,136

Strengthening environmental NGOs in Burma / Myanmar	Myanmar	Natural resources	EuropeAid	€ 471,000	€ 350,000	€ 45,666
COSMO Conservation and Sustainable Management Of Lampi Marine National Park	Myanmar	Natural resources	Stiftung Drittens Millennium (SDM)	€ 625,797	€ 161,508	€ 26,173
Improve knowledge and management of marine and forest resources in Southern Rakhine State (Myanmar)	Myanmar	Natural resources	EuropeAid	€ 708,747	€ 531,560	€ 225,723
Development of Myanmar civil society's capacities for biodiversity safeguard and sustainable development	Myanmar	Natural resources	Lombardy Region	€ 333,900	€ 100,000	€ 35,637
Malemeu/Nkoasenga Water Project, Leguruki Ward, Arumeru District, Tanzania	Tanzania	Natural resources	Charity and Defence of Nature Trust	€ 146,496	€ 146,496	€ 9,082
Improving Water and Sanitation access and Hygiene standards to achieve the MDGs in Arusha Region, Tanzania	Tanzania	Natural resources	EuropeAid and Charity and Defence of Nature Trust	€ 2,849,160	€ 1,994,412	€ 385,160
Improved water accessibility in Kireeni, Qaloki sub villages and Ngabobo village, Oldonysambu Ward – Tanzania	Tanzania	Natural resources	Charity and Defence of Nature Trust	€ 637,517	€ 637,517	€ 169,209
The Quirimbas treasure	Mozambique	Natural resources	Muindi and Milan Municipality	€ 49,290	€ 49,290	€ 30,728
Momela water project	Tanzania	Natural resources	Charity and Defence of Nature Trust	€ 100,000	€ 100,000	€ 5,092
BEST RAY Bringing Energy Service in Tanzania Rural Area	Tanzania	Climate and energy	EuropeAid	€ 1,500,000	€ 1,125,000	€ 254,421
Energy for Life	Italy and Europe	Education for sustainability	EuropeAid	€ 919,344	€ 689,508	€ 312,558
Energia per la vita	Italy and Europe	Education for sustainability	Cariplo Foundation and Varese, Pavia and Como Provinces	€ 224,740	€ 105,250	€ 70,838

Rifiutuli Insubrici	Italy	Education for sustainability	Province of Varese and Lombardy Region	€ 200,000	€ 200,000	€ 70,615
Tourism in action	Italy and Brazil	Education for sustainability	Milan Municipality	€ 72,310	€ 72,310	€ 68,697
Seeds of sustainability	Italy	Education for sustainability	Cariplo Foundation and Varese Province	€ 150,928	€ 98,100	€ 33,579
Time to seed	Italy	Education for sustainability	EuropeAid	€ 918,413	€ 688,810	€ 41,586
Strengthening human resources for food safety and environmental protection in the Mount Meru area	Tanzania	Food Safety	Lombardy Region	€ 670,000	€ 200,000	€ 39,898
Improvement of food safety and nutritional status in Maasai steppes of northern Tanzania, by applying sustainable farming technologies	Tanzania	Food Safety	EuropeAid	€ 1,675,900	€ 1,500,000	€ 984,736
Cultivating the future in schools – sustainable technology and education to promote food safety and environmental protection in the Mount Meru area (Tanzania)	Tanzania	Food Safety	INTERVITA	€ 630,570	€ 500,940	€ 152,124
SAFE FOOD, SAVE LIVES Food safety and fighting malnutrition in school children in the Arumeru District, Northern Tanzania	Tanzania	Food Safety	Mediafriends	€ 500,000	€ 500,000	€ 31,176
Supporting community fruit and vegetable gardens to increase food safety in South Rakhine (Myanmar)	Myanmar	Food Safety	Milan Municipality	€ 519,830	€ 150,000	€ 19,444
Geração de Renda e Inclusão Social dos jovens de três regiões no Estado da Bahia, através da criação de Cooperativas de Trabalho Juvenis	Brazil	Local economy and environment	EuropeAid and Charity and Defence of Nature Trust	€ 396,000	€ 297,000	€ 2,989

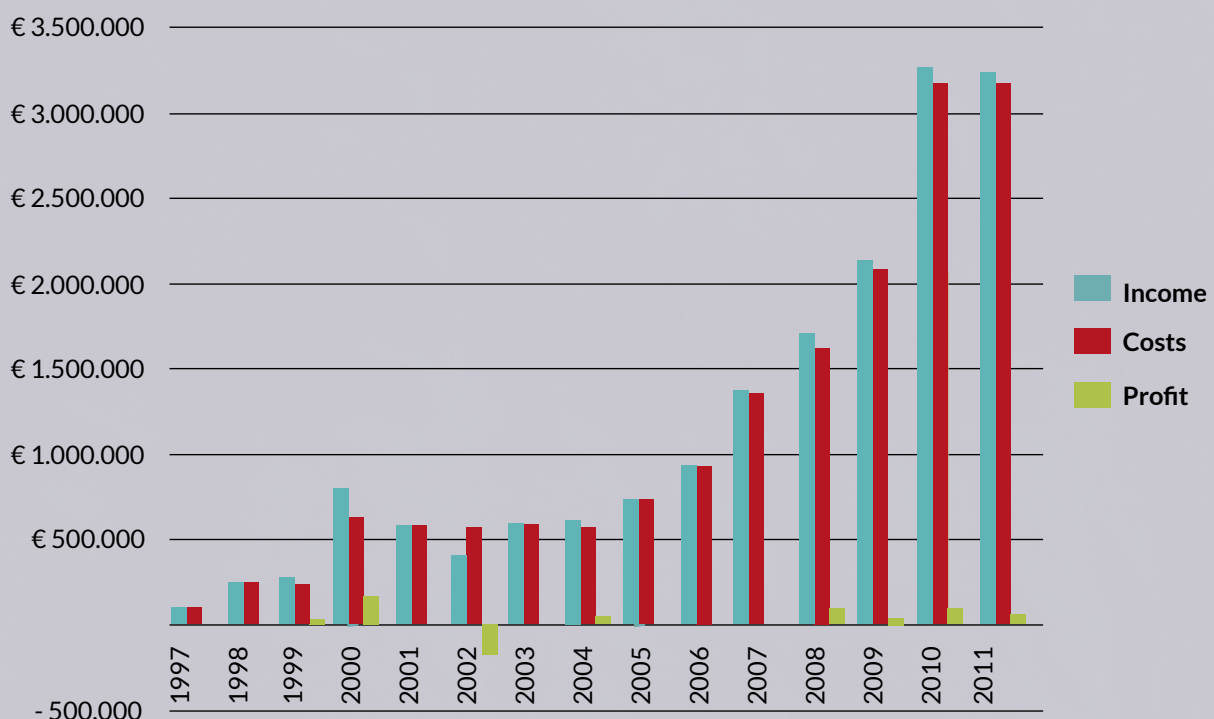
Financial statement 2011

The 2011 financial statement is characterized by the introduction of new administrative tools in the local branches, which allowed the achievement of a significant goal: the **consolidation of an integrated and analytical accounts structure for projects**.

These tools substantially increase control over the administrative values, allowing for more effective control over expenditure and project management. The introduction of these new tools had already begun in mid-2010 in the experimental phase, thus allowing them to be properly introduced from the start of 2011.

Trend of income, costs and profits from 1997 to 2011

The graph below shows the **trend of gradual increase of costs and revenues since 1997**. It is noted that 2011 closed substantially in a similar way to 2010, with an income a little over 3.2 million Euros.



Sources of Funding

The income shows a **significant increase in the amount of projects funded by the European Union**, which moved from 47% to 70% of the income, sign of Oikos's increasing attention to development projects and of its greater credentials with the European Union.

	2011	%	2010	%
Income for projects	€ 3,155,890.50		€ 3,090,605.87	
<i>From European Union</i>	€ 2,252,939.26	70%	€ 1,532,868.99	47%
<i>From Italian public authorities</i>	€ 276,541.67	9%	€ 579,722.75	18%
<i>From other donors</i>	€ 626,409.57	19%	€ 978,014.13	30%
<i>Other income</i>	€ 80,416.81	2%	€ 173,019.03	5%
TOTAL INCOME	€ 3,236,307.31	100%	€ 3,263,624.90	100%



Below the profit and loss account and the reclassified balance sheet for 2011 compared with the previous year.

2011 Overall Profit and Loss Account

COSTS	2011	2010
TOTAL INSTITUTIONAL COSTS	€ 3,119,368	€ 3,035,948
Income for projects	€ 2,931,570	€ 2,878,530
<i>From the European Union</i>	€ 2,089,407	€ 1,415,134
<i>From Italian public authorities</i>	€ 293,164	€ 551,938
<i>From other donors</i>	€ 548,999	€ 911,457
General charges *	€ 187,798	€ 157,418
TOTAL COMMERCIAL COSTS	€ 50,712	€ 133,652
TOTAL COSTS	€ 3,170,079	€ 3,169,599
Profit	€ 66,228	€ 94,025

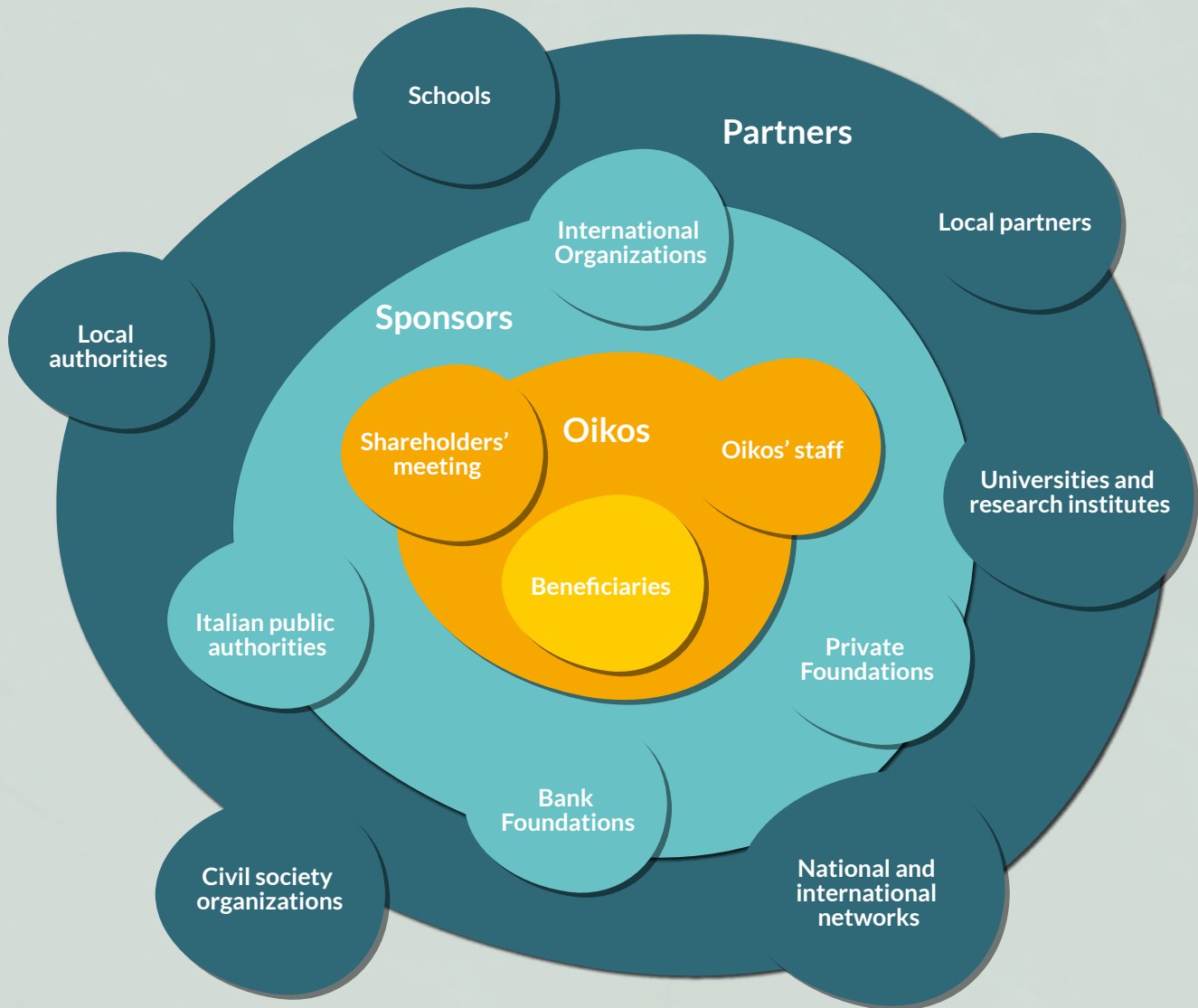
* in 2010, including research costs for new countries

INCOME	2011	2010
TOTAL INSTITUTIONAL INCOME AND REVENUES	€ 3,189,395	€ 3,130,795
Income for projects	€ 3,155,891	€ 3,090,606
<i>From the European Union</i>	€ 2,252,939	€ 1,532,869
<i>From Italian public authorities</i>	€ 276,542	€ 579,723
<i>From other donors</i>	€ 626,410	€ 978,014
Private donations	€ 16,903	€ 27,317
Financial and capital income	€ 9,238	€ 4,616
Other income	€ 7,363	€ 8,256
TOTAL INCOME AND REVENUES FROM COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES	€ 46,913	€ 132,830
TOTAL INCOME	€ 3,236,307	€ 3,263,624

2011 financial year balance sheet

ASSETS	31/12/2011	31/12/2010
FIXED ASSETS	€ 112,285,00	€ 113,571,00
<i>Total intangible fixed assets</i>	€ 1,240,00	€ 2,480,00
<i>Total tangible fixed assets</i>	€ 36,045,00	€ 36,091,00
<i>Total financial fixed assets</i>	€ 75,000,00	€ 75,000,00
RECEIVABLES FROM CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERS	€ 3,833,710,00	€ 3,169,470,44
<i>Receivables from customers</i>	€ 91,337,80	€ 107,672,51
<i>Receivables from donators</i>	€ 3,496,730,51	€ 2,843,797,42
<i>Receivables for advances to partners</i>	€ 72,713,80	€ 42,542,00
<i>Receivables from partners for project contribution</i>	€ 172,927,66	€ 123,740,96
<i>Receivables from associates</i>		€ 51,717,55
RECEIVABLES FROM OTHERS	€ 17,693,00	€ 55,346,00
CASH AVAILABILITY	€ 2,221,399,00	€ 1,926,931,00
ACCRUED INCOME AND PREPAID EXPENSES	€ 3,584,00	€ 2,342,00
TOTAL ASSETS	€ 6,188,671,00	€ 5,267,660,44
Memorandum accounts		
<i>Guarantees from others</i>	€ 180,000,00	€ 228,000,00
Total memorandum accounts	€ 180,000,00	€ 228,000,00
LIABILITIES	31/12/2011	31/12/2010
NET EQUITY	€ 437,543,00	€ 371,314,81
<i>Initial allocation</i>	€ 1,549,00	€ 1,549,37
<i>2011 net income</i>	€ 66,228,00	€ 94,025,09
<i>Unavailable reserves</i>	€ 66,499,26	€ 66,499,26
<i>Available reserves</i>	€ 303,266,58	€ 209,241,09
SEVERANCE PAY PROVISION	€ 17,861,00	€ 12,719,72
PAYABLES TO SUPPLIERS AND PARTNERS	€ 5,609,389,00	€ 4,829,751,48
<i>Payables to suppliers</i>	€ 143,164,01	€ 280,283,62
<i>Project availability</i>	€ 5,232,151,03	€ 4,366,543,45
<i>Project availability for partners monetary contribution</i>	€ 172,927,66	€ 123,740,96
<i>Advances to partner</i>	€ 61,146,65	€ 59,183,45
ACCRUED EXPENSES AND DEFERRED INCOME	€ 51,856,00	€ 53,874,65
TOTAL NET LIABILITIES	€ 6,188,671,00	€ 5,267,660,66
Memorandum accounts		
<i>Guarantees to third parties</i>	€ 180,000,00	€ 228,000,00
Total memorandum accounts	€ 180,000,00	€ 228,000,00

Stakeholders



The core of the network of stakeholders linked to Istituto Oikos are the **beneficiaries**, which include the populations, in the North and South of the world, who are touched by the projects, along with the natural environment as a whole. A vast number of authorities, companies and organizations rotate around this core, which benefit from and are involved in a direct manner in what we do. In particular, we collaborate with numerous **Universities**: primarily, this year, in addition to the University of Insubria, our historical partner, we have worked with the University of Milan and the University of Milan Bicocca. In Italy, in 2011, we have worked alongside many **public authorities**, including the Municipality of Milan (Council of Zone 3 in particular) and the Provinces of Varese, Como, Lecco and Bergamo. We have also collaborated with various **regional bodies** including CoLomba, AIAB, DES-VA Distretto di Economia Solidale of Varese, Alekoslab coop. soc. a r.l. Onlus.

In developing countries, the most significant institutional stakeholders are, on one side, **local institutions**, such as the Districts of Meru and Arusha or the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) in Tanzania and, on the other side, **the civil society**, represented in particular by NGOs such as Oikos East Africa (Tanzania) and BANCA Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (Myanmar).

An ongoing journey

The future demands increasing commitment and a continuous critical review of the instruments we use. Our priorities include:

Strategies for action

- Continue to operate as a small NGO that interacts with its partners to achieve successful experiences based on shared inspirations, innovation, an ability to invest and a willingness to put the best skills into action.
- Find a method of work that guarantees increasing effectiveness and efficiency and is based on careful monitoring of results.
- Constantly strengthen the role of our partners and local technical staff, maintaining our strong commitment to vocational training and raising awareness on environmental issues as essential tools to help beneficiaries escape poverty without having to rely on others.
- Support the micro-economies of informal local groups, built upon their knowledge of traditional cultures and the local areas based also upon their knowledge of traditional cultures and the territory.
- Give priority to the areas where we can make the most of our expertise: areas of significant environmental value that require protective measures or areas in which we have been implementing long-term projects and can rely on in-depth knowledge and stable, lasting relations with our partners.

Organization

- Strengthen our strategic and organizational component.
- Make a concentrated effort to prepare a Position Paper for each of our strategic sectors: water, sustainable agriculture, energy, environmental monitoring.
- Improve internal communications between our main office and those in the countries in which we operate, as well as between the various sectors (scientific, communication, cooperation).

Communication

- Foster a greater openness to the public, contact and direct collaboration with citizens, starting with citizens in the Milan area.
- Strive to create a community of responsible, aware citizens with whom to share thoughts, projects, dreams and expectations.
- Be more open to forms of volunteer work and active participation in our projects.
- Establish relations with private organizations, including companies, who may have a valuable contribution to make.

Change towards sustainable lifestyles

- Increase our networking skills and improve communication with those who, like us, aim at putting environmental protection at the center of the development process.

We work hard towards defending the values that have helped us develop. We want to be capable of reacting to changes and strengthening our experiences before formulating new ideas or improving the ideas of others. Cooperation means, above all, establishing relations in which all the parties involved offer and receive something, based on their strengths, abilities and intelligence; it means making the most of the many resources by which the cultures in the global south, despite poverty, can help the West.



How you can help

Thanks to your contribution, Istituto Oikos has managed to improve the living conditions of the rural communities in the countries in which it operates, promoting a sustainable development, compatible with the delicate balances of the planet.

Our challenge against poverty and environmental degradation continues.
Join us. Investing in the environment means investing in the future.

Donations

Bank current account:

Banca Popolare di Sondrio, Branch no. 1, Via Porpora 104 - 20131 Milan

acc. no. 6906/78 in the name of Istituto Oikos, Onlus

Italian banking association code 05696 – sort code 01602 – CIN R

IBAN IT80R0569601602000006906X78

Post office current account:

acc. no. 61923629

Donations made to Istituto Oikos are tax deductible.

Istituto Oikos is an NGO (non-governmental organization) pursuant to Italian law no. 49 dated 26.02.1987 and also an NPO (non-profit organization) pursuant to Italian Legislative Decree no. 460 dated 4.12.1997. Therefore, based upon the law in force the donations received can be deducted for up to 10% from the donor individual's overall declared income and up to a maximum of EUR 70,000 per year.

You will receive a receipt from Istituto Oikos to attach to your tax return for the donation you have made.

Companies

If you are a company you can support us and add value to your business.

Why choose Oikos? Because we are independent from political parties, governments and religious institutions and we are officially recognized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We base our action on solid scientific principles. We work with accuracy and professionalism to conciliate environmental conservation and poverty reduction.

With us, companies can develop partnerships, promote social communication campaigns, organize events, choose to support a specific project or sustain us by buying responsible gifts for employees.



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