

NEWS OF THE LEGACY LANDSCAPES FUND



May 2021

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Words from the Boards

The Legacy Landscapes Fund is finally here!

Simple in its approach, yet powerful in its impact – this is LLF’s message. Further, this is what has led to LLF’s prominent public visibility, even before it was launched. The LLF stands for a new bold approach to biodiversity financing. The fund is unique in its long-term focus, its strong demand-orientation and its flexibility to raise funds across the board and invest them where it matters most: On the ground for lasting conservation impacts!

The LLF builds bridges. It builds bridges between the Global North and the Global South, as well as between the private and public donor world. Not to forget, it also fosters long-lasting, strong partnerships between national conservation authorities, conservation NGOs and local communities. The principles of equal partnerships and collaboration are engraved in the DNA of the LLF.

Partnerships are built on trust and sound communication. Taking a step into this direction, we are very pleased to present the very first LLF News Update to you.

We will introduce to you two of the key people behind the LLF, as well as provide an update on what has been achieved over the past half year. Then, before we quickly sum up on the portfolio development, we will show you what to look out for in the second half of 2021.

Please enjoy the read.

Regards from the LLF-Team

We would highly appreciate if you joined us at our **LAUNCH EVENT** on May 19, 4.30 p.m. CEST



Interview

„The approach is striking.“



Birgit Pickel: Director Global Health, Pandemic Preparedness and One Health in the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Birgit has more than 20 years experience in international cooperation.

Birgit Pickel from the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) chairs the Supervisory Board of the Legacy Landscapes Fund (LLF). In the interview she talks about the prospect of the LLF and why she thinks it comes just at the right time.

When you first heard about the idea of creating a Legacy Landscapes Fund, what was your initial reaction?

Birgit Pickel: I was fascinated by the idea of creating a new, innovative and multi-actor partnership to address the biodiversity crisis that we are in. The key words innovative, visionary, targeted and sustainable came to my mind when I first heard about the LLF. And it was important to me to learn that LLF builds on partnerships involving all relevant stakeholders including local communities.

What was the reason for the BMZ to initiate a fund like this?

Birgit Pickel: We are facing a triple crisis at the moment, which is the climate crisis, the biodiversity crisis and currently also the pandemic situation. The ministry has been looking for a good solution to address the biodiversity crisis, leading up to the COP15 in Kunming. As one of the main donors for biodiversity, BMZ is currently supporting 668 protected areas in developing countries with a total extension of 2 million square kilometers, six times larger than Germany. Building on this experience, we wanted to create a viable instrument to protect nature and to provide sustainable financing to protected areas. We regard the LLF as a very important contribution to our comprehensive international cooperation in the field of biodiversity. With the LLF, we envisage to finance some of the most valuable, precious and biodiversity-rich landscapes worldwide for eternity.

You also include private actors – why?

Birgit Pickel: The challenges the LLF tries to address are complex and diverse and need multiple perspectives, including various sources of finance. They cannot be tackled by public funding only. Therefore, the fund brings different partners on board: governments, non-governmental actors, science, academia, civil society and also the private sector.

How do you make sure that private actors are not trying to misuse the LLF for their purposes?

Birgit Pickel: There are plenty of private actors that have a keen interest in contributing to the protection of our environment and thus can be a real additional value to the LLF. For the time being, the private partners co-funding the LLF are mainly philanthropic foundations. But the LLF is also open for corporate partners provided that they share the spirit and sustainability vision of the fund. We will apply due diligence processes to ensure that we engage only in solid, reliable and credible partnerships. Generally, we see great interest from private actors and we hope to get support globally. The German Government has laid a strong foundation for the fund, but we expect others – public and private funders – to follow and contribute.

The LLF was founded in December 2020 and will be launched in May of this year. What are some of the next important milestones?

Birgit Pickel: After the first weeks, doing all the basics regarding the institutional set-up and staff recruitment, we are now urgently getting the first pilot projects up and running: Social and environmental due diligence studies are on the way for all pilot sites; their recommendations and action plans will have to be integrated into the programme proposals. We are doing all this with high energy. But we also do it with the necessary care.

Do you see any other priorities for the next months?

Birgit Pickel: At the same time we want to broaden the institution in every respect. The LLF is still small – functional, but small. It will be expanded over time with more actors, hopefully more funding and also more experience. We are planning to set up an Advisory Committee that will contribute further expertise. And of course, the funding that has been entrusted to the foundation needs to be managed and invested properly and sustainably.

What are some key factors to make the LLF a success?

Birgit Pickel: In addition to what I have already mentioned the LLF can only be successful if the host country of the site takes strong ownership. The projects are implemented by NGOs but they have to work in a trusted partnership with the respective governments. Another factor for success is to take the local communities along the journey, learn about their livelihoods and plan with them. Working with local communities and respecting human rights is one key prerequisite for successful and long-lasting conservation.



The ministry has initiated the LLF. What will your role be in the future?

Birgit Pickel: We see ourselves as a parent of the institution, together with KfW as well as long-term international and nongovernmental partners that have also been actively involved from the beginning. And as a dedicated donor in biodiversity for many years, we feel well-positioned to come up with a foundation of this kind. As the LLF broadens, our role will change. We want to focus more on a supervisory role in the future. Nonetheless, we will remain a strong partner for the LLF.

Are you optimistic that the LLF will fly?

Birgit Pickel: I am completely convinced of the concept: the private-public approach is innovative and striking. And the pandemic has given us a strong sense of urgency and awareness about the importance of saving biodiversity. We know now more than ever that we need “One Health” – for the planet, the animals and for us as human beings. So, I am confident that we will be able to attract a lot of support for this very special fund and ultimately for biodiversity protection.

LLF Update

Where are we at?

The year 2020 ended with a double bull's eye: with the formal establishment of the LLF on December 15, followed by a last-minute reception of the first contributions from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and with the BMZ to kick-start the new Legacy Landscapes Fund!

This productivity carried over into 2021, which began at high speed – and has been accelerating ever since the start of the new LLF Executive Director, Stefanie Lang, in April.

Since the beginning of the year, the Management Board's key priority has been to get the new fund quickly up and running. Consequently, some fundamental decisions by the LLF Supervisory Board have been made concerning the investment strategy and set-up, the LLF statutes, by-laws, staffing and many more.

In parallel, all pilots are progressing as planned. Currently, independent environmental and social due diligence studies are being conducted throughout the 2nd quarter of 2021 for six of the seven candidates.

We are happy with the progress so far. And we are currently preparing for the upcoming LLF Launch on May 19th with the support of our main partners BMZ, KfW and NGOs – the Launch will be a landmark moment for the fund.

Meanwhile, the cooperation with the LLF private partners is continuously growing and matching agreements will be signed during the second quarter of 2021.

Discussions with other public partners such as the French Government through AFD and the EU commission as well as new private partners (NGOs, philanthropists; corporate partners) are in full swing. We hope to be able to announce some good news in the coming months.

Summary of milestones 2020 / 2021

- **December 8th, 2020:** The LLF Foundation Act was signed.
- **December 14th, 2020:** First Supervisory Board (SB) meeting took place, headed by Birgit Pickel (BMZ) and Dr. Thomas Duve (KfW) as founding members. The SB appointed David Morrison as Interim Executive Director and Uwe Klug as Deputy Executive Director of the LLF.

- **December 15th, 2020:** The LLF statutes were confirmed by the Hessian Foundation Authority, therewith confirming its legal establishment as a foundation under German (Hessian) Law.
- **December 16th, 2020:** Bank accounts were opened.
- **December 18th, 2020:** The LLF signed the first Grant Agreement with KfW on BMZ Grant.
- **December 21st, 2020:** The LLF obtained charitable status from tax authority.
- **December 22nd, 2020:** The LLF signed a Grant Agreement with the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation on USD 5 million and received Moore funding as first capital for the LLF. And: The LLF contracted Nature Trust Alliance as administrative partner.
- **December 30th, 2020:** LLF received German Financial Cooperation contribution of EUR 72.5 million from BMZ via KfW.
- **January 2021:** The Supervisory Board welcomed new members:
 - Aileen Lee (Betty and Gordon Moore Foundation, full member) and
 - Barry Gold (Rob and Melanie Walton Foundation, observer status).
- **January 2021:** The Supervisory Board approved an Investment Policy and contracted financial advisor FINAD.
- **February 2021:** Bylaws for the Management Board and Guidelines for the Supervisory Board were approved.
- **April 2021:** The Management Board was strengthened by recruiting the Executive Director, Stefanie Lang. David Morrison succeeded Uwe Klug as Deputy Executive Director of the Foundation.
- **April 15th, 2021:** Programme Assistant, Lea Helm, started at the LLF.
- **Ongoing:** Strengthening the LLF governance structure.
 - Setting up 3 special committees to support the LLF Management Board:
 - Advisory Committee
 - Grant Making Committee
 - Investment Committee

Upcoming Milestones

The LLF team will prioritise the following critical milestones this year:

- Launching of the LLF Homepage in mid May 2021 (legacylandscapes.org).
- Official launch of the LLF on May 19, 2021.
- Receiving approval from the LLF Supervisory Board for at least five pilot sites in 2021.
- Identifying of additional funding partners.
- Establishing an Advisory Committee (AC) around the time of the IUCN World Conservation Congress and First AC meeting potentially back-to-back with the IUCN WCC on September 6, 2021.
- On-boarding of new LLF staff.
- Developing an LLF Grant Programme Manual.
- Preparing the first public call for proposals in late 2021/early 2022.

Portrait

Enthusiastic and Dedicated Stefanie Lang – the new Executive Director



Since the beginning of April, the Legacy Landscapes Fund (LLF) has a head – and a face: the German national Stefanie Lang took over as the organization's new Executive Director. She is an experienced conservationist with an out-

standing track-record and an international background spanning diverse countries and continents. Stefanie took over the new post wholeheartedly as she believes it is a special honour to lead such an important new funding institution. On a personal level, she regards it as a once in a lifetime opportunity that will allow her to bring all her experience to bear and bundle all her talents to the benefit of the LLF and its mission.

Prior to joining LLF, Stefanie worked several years with the WWF network where she held various leadership positions including Director for Asia of WWF Germany and Country Director in Myanmar. She also spent time in Tanzania for the World Bank and engaged in political advocacy work at and with the European Commission (WWF Office Brussels). Her diverse background in programme design, working on the ground, managing country teams and conducting political analysis makes her particularly suitable for the diverse job at the helm of the LLF.

"It's an absolute dream job for anyone who deals with conservation", Stefanie says. Particularly appealing to her are the special partnerships the LLF is building: where public donors meet private, philanthropic and non-governmental actors; where protected area administrations work with local communities and international NGOs, and where different mentalities, experience and expectations come together for a common cause. This cooperation needs to be moderated, and conflicting interests have to be discussed and worked through.

Stefanie now takes on the task of building up this fund from scratch. This includes routine but important tasks like hiring staff, finding office space and redesigning the website, but involves attracting new partners, designing calls and generally transitioning the fund from a primarily German initiative to a well-functioning multi-partner global entity. The goal is clear: saving outstanding biodiversity for the benefit of humankind. The instrument is defined: sustainable and sufficient financing for key sites in developing countries. But the way to get there has just begun. Stefanie is excited about the journey she has embarked on and will dedicate all her energy to making this new fund a success.

Portfolio Status

Pilot Candidates

The LLF Team, with support from KfW, is in the process of negotiating a project portfolio of up to 7 pilot projects in 2020 / 2021:

Proposed Legacy Landscape	Applicant	Match-Funding Partner
Odzala-Kokoua NP, Republic of Congo	African Parks Network	R&M Walton Foundation
Gonarezhou NP, Zimbabwe	Frankfurt Zoological Society	The Wyss Foundation
North Luangwa NP, Zambia	Frankfurt Zoological Society	The Wyss Foundation
Madidi NP, Bolivia	Wildlife Conservation Society	G & B Moore Foundation
Gunung Leuser NP, Indonesia	Wildlife Conservation Society	Arcadia Foundation
Iona National Park, Angola	African Parks Network	R & M Walton Foundation
Cardamom Mountains, Cambodia	Conservation International	t.b.d.



Timeline Pilot Project Portfolio 2020/21:

- **Start-up phase in 2020:** Restricted call for up to seven pilot sites.
- **November / December 2020:** Seven Concept Notes received.
- **January / February 2021:** LLF / KfW technical feedback shared with project applicants.
- **February / March 2021:** External Environmental & Social Due Diligence Studies commissioned for six of the seven pilot projects.
- **May / June 2021:** Presenting results of the first ESDD and discussing them with project partners. ESDD recommendations and Action Plan will be integrated into full proposal.
- **May / June 2021:** Signing of matching agreements between the LLF and philanthropic donors.
- **From July / August 2021 onwards:** Submitting full proposals to the LLF.
- **Second half of 2021:** Funding decision expected for at least five sites.
- **Upcoming calls:** Public call to be announced in late 2021/ early 2022.

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