NEWS OF THE LEGACY LANDSCAPES FUND

December 2021

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Words from the Boards

Introduction

2021 has been a busy and exciting first year for the Legacy Landscapes Fund: marked by some challenges, many opportunities, and key achievements.

We presented the LLF internationally at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille and at the Climate Summit UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow. And we successfully secured new funding from public donors. Internally we continued to shape and build-up this young organization by moving into a new office, recruiting new staff members, and setting up an expert advisory committee which will assist the LLF management. Most importantly however, we approved 4 pilot sites with 3 more to come as early as the first quarter next year!

We are very proud of these achievements, also because 2021 was still greatly overshadowed by the impacts of the pandemic. As difficult as COVID-19 is for us and for the world, it at least has opened many more eyes to the danger of the triple crises of global pandemics, climate change and biodiversity loss.

It was therefore great to see that the LLF’s approach of linking nature conservation with climate change was well echoed at the high-level panels of IUCN WCC and COP26. Climate change and biodiversity loss are not separate crises that need separate solutions, on the contrary: “nature is our best line of defense”, as John Kerry so eloquently said. It is the most effective means to combat climate change and its adverse effects. And protecting some of the most biodiversity-rich areas of the world is a key element in safeguarding and securing nature. This is exactly the mission of the LLF.

Our mission is also to include the people on the ground. For us it goes without saying that lasting conservation of broader landscapes must be based on a participatory, equitable, fair, and rights-based approach. That is why we are working so hard on approaches that do exactly that: Protect nature in order to save biodiversity, contribute to the mitigation of climate change and include the people living in and around those landscapes. We believe that benefits for local communities are in fact the foundation needed to truly achieve permanent effects.

In short, we are looking back on an exciting and very busy year and move ahead to more landmark developments and events in 2022: We will conduct our first open call for new legacy landscapes sites in early 2022. We expect to get more donors, public and private, on board. And we will continue to introduce the LLF as an innovative and relevant financing instrument to the international public. The CBD COP15 is a key milestone of our annual agenda but we will use many more opportunities to reach out and tell the exciting story of LLF to as many people and stakeholders as possible.

We wish you a healthy holiday season and a wonderful start into 2022!

Please enjoy the read.

Stefanie Lang
Managing Director LLF
Interview

“Looking ahead very optimistically”

Interview with Dr. Thomas Duve: Director, Southern Africa at KfW Development Bank. He is also Deputy Chair of LLF’s Supervisory Board. Thomas has been with KfW for more than 25 years.

The LLF was founded roughly a year ago and officially launched in May. Where are we now? How has it developed since?

Dr. Thomas Duve: It was a challenging and yet a very successful year. The most obvious challenge was the Corona Pandemic that made things a lot more complicated than anticipated, particularly on the ground. Then the LLF had to build up the organization from scratch and get the right people on board. But the LLF managed quite well in its first year. The organization is working, environmental and social due diligence processes were established, the first sites approved. And the international interest has been overwhelming.

Compared to other projects KfW is engaging in it seems like the LLF has turned on a turbo. Would you share that perception?

Definitely, I would even call it light speed. In my long career in development cooperation, I have rarely seen a project getting so far in one year after the financing agreement was signed.

So, you are looking optimistically into the second year of the LLF?

I am very happy where we are. We have prospects to grow financially over the next year. The staff will increase. There will be the first call for proposals. Already now, before the first official call of proposals, we know of several dozen project ideas: Project ideas where an NGO has a trustful management relationship to a site and also an approval by the respective government. This altogether is great news for me.

How many sites would you like to see approved by the end of 2022?

More than twelve, including the pilot sites, would be great, a number with two digits in any case.

Coming back to the due diligence process – some feel it makes the work of the LLF complicated. How do you view it?

To me this is a very important feature of the LLF. It holds up high quality standards for various reasons, not least because the LLF is committing itself to a 15-year-long financing scheme. If the LLF enters into a long relationship of that sort, very good information about risks and a very strong commitment to high standards of human rights, of environmental and social requirements of all parties involved is indispensable. Therefore, we will not compromise on these standards. However, we will work on improving the processes, based on the feedback we got from partners in the pilot phase.

Talking about funds: how far could the LLF go – is the sky the limit?

Yes and no. Theoretically there is no limit. And, looking at the present loss of biodiversity, the demand for long-term financial support is gigantic. But donor governments in the coming years will be somewhat restricted due to COVID activities. So growth will probably have to come also from the private side, from philanthropists and corporations.

Where do you see particular challenges for the LLF?

The LLF goes back to a German initiative; its capitalization so far is overwhelmingly German. But it was clearly designed with the ambition to be an international entity in order to achieve maximum effects. Therefore, we would like to attract more international donors to join, private and public. We have created a lot of interest, are talking to
different potential contributors and hope that next year the circle of supporters will enlarge. On the NGO-side this internationalization has already taken place, on the donor-side it has yet to come.

**Which role can it play at the upcoming Biodiversity COP in Kunming?**

It can play a considerable role in reaching the 30-by-30 goal that will most likely be agreed upon at this very important international conference on biodiversity, particularly if more donors join. But already now the LLF is setting a good example for effective financial support of protected areas that hopefully will get more followers, within and outside the LLF.

**What does the LLF mean to you personally?**

I find it an overwhelmingly positive experience, personally and professionally. I was dreaming about an instrument like this already back in the 1990s, at the outset of my career. And now it exists!

**LLF Update**

**Where are we at?**

**Portfolio Development**

Comprehensive environmental and social due diligence studies were conducted for 6 pilot legacy landscapes resulting in the formulation of binding Environmental and Social Action Plans (ESAPs) for the support programs. To date, 4 legacy landscapes were approved by the LLF Supervisory Board in 2021 with 3 more pending. [More infos.]

**Capitalization of the Fund**

The LLF has successfully secured an additional EUR 37.5 million from the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in 2021. The LLF is currently capitalized with about USD 150 Million. The fund is engaged in talks with several private and public donors for additional funding in 2022.

**LLF on the Road**

The Legacy Landscapes Fund was present at IUCN World Conservation Congress and the Climate Summit in Glasgow as an innovative financing instrument for not only biodiversity, but also for climate protection and adaptation.

In the name of the LLF Stefanie Lang held a laudatory speech for the former German Minister for Development, Dr. Gerd Müller, on the occasion of the award of the Sustainability Price of the “Hans-Carl-von-Carlowitz” Society in November in Chemnitz.

**LEGACY LANDSCAPES**  
(Status Dec 2021)

| Total number | 4 |
| Total area covered | 42,000 km² |
| Total carbon storage potential | 980 Mt |

**CONTRIBUTIONS**  
(Status Dec 2021)

- **Total available foundation capital**
  - Public: 140.4 Mio.
  - Private: 5.0 Mio.

- **Total match funding**
  - Private: 180.4 Mio.
  - Private: 35 Mio.

**LLF event at IUCN WCC – Bertrand Walckenaer (AFD) and Christiane Laibach (KfW).**

**Governance structures**

LLF Advisory Committee (AC) was constituted in September 2021 bringing together international experts from research and the conservation community. The AC will support the LLF Management Board on strategic development of the fund. Mr. Georg Schwede and Ms. Sandy Andelman were selected as observers to the Supervisory Board.
Outlook 2022

Where are we going?

The year 2022 will start in the same spirit 2021 has ended and will in no case be a less significant year for the LLF. It will be the first official year of LLF funding partnership reaching the field. All seven pilot sites are expected to be running by mid-2022 which marks an important milestone for the fund.

With additional funding successfully secured during 2021, the Legacy Landscapes Fund is pleased to announce its first open Call for Grant Proposals, which will be launched in early 2022. Details will be available shortly on the LLF website.

Besides entering this exciting post-pilot phase of LLF operations, the following critical milestones will be prioritized next year:

- A Programme Manager and Environmental and Social Safeguards Manager will support the LLF team as of January 2022.
- The LLF will participate in the COP 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Kunming, China.
- A Monitoring Framework, Environmental & Social Management System and various Program and Operational Manuals will be developed.
- Outstanding legacy landscapes will be selected to be financed long-term and sustainably.
- Additional funding sources will be unlocked, new public-private partnerships will be started.