

2021

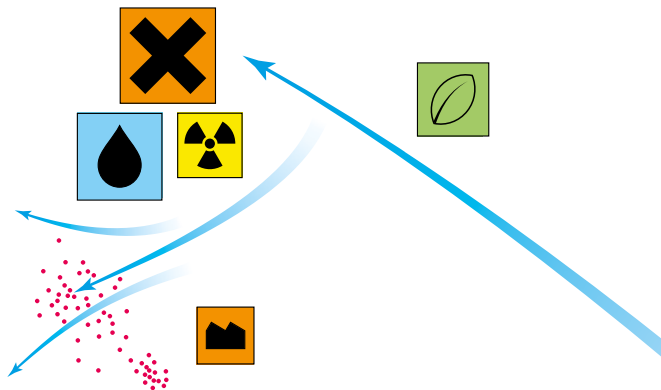
annual report

zoï environment network

The map, **“One month into the War on Ukraine”**, released on 24 March 2022, showed an already striking number of cities, industries and natural areas affected by the fighting.

With casualties accumulating and spreading increasingly across the country as the war continues, Ukraine’s environmental recovery looks evermore distant and costly.

Live up-to date information about war damage to Ukraine’s environment: www.ecodozor.org



editorial

It is never easy to cut through the events and results of a previous year. Should we write again about Covid that is still around and shaped the mood last year? Should it be that Zoï, like many others, has lived through the pandemic, and is now back in our offices and ready to face new challenges? Or should we reflect on how the president of the Zoï board prepared a serious game about climate adaptation to be played soon – a half a year after Glasgow – with climate negotiators from all over the world?

But as it happens reality brutally took over, and one February morning this year we woke up to horrible and incomprehensible news of a war at the heart of Zoïland: a savage aggression on Ukraine destroying its cities, killing and sending its people to flee, and causing widespread environmental destruction. There is hardly anything we think about more as we are writing this. People we have known for decades, places we so often visited – from Donetsk and Kramatorsk to Odesa, Lviv and Kyiv – then vibrant with creativity and energy and now seeing their spirit attacked and life tissues turned into waste.

We are in touch with our colleagues and friends who remain in Ukraine or were forced to leave, and we do our small bits here through protests, support for refugees and whatever more we can. We stand by our board member in Ukraine, a former parliamentarian and journalist who does her utmost to bring to the world’s urgent attention the trauma and needs of her people. And we do what we can professionally – monitoring and communicating the environmental side of this war together with our Ukrainian and international partners, helping to make sure that no harm done is left unknown or undocumented.

We are hopeful and look forward to contributing to the enormous task of Ukraine’s post-war recovery, restoring and safeguarding its beautiful environment. But first of all, and above all, we want this war to end. *Слава Україні!* Glory to Ukraine!

Nickolai Denisov

ONE MONTH INTO THE WAR ON UKRAINE

context and the impact on the environment



Residue waste and toxic sludge in tailing storage facilities

billion tonnes

- Dnipropetrovska oblast (4.0)
- Siversky Donets basin (0.54)
- Azov Sea coast (0.34)
- Dniester basin (0.16)
- Poltavaska oblast (0.46)
- Kirovohradska oblast (0.13)
- Zaporizhska oblast (0.11)
- Donetsk oblast (0.10)

Background information

- Russia-controlled areas per 22 February 2022
- Mass presence of Russian troops
- Russian advances
- Major flows of refugees
- Nuclear power plants
- Decommissioned nuclear power plant
- Major hydropower plants
- Major thermal power plants
- Major chemical facilities
- Refineries
- Non-operational refineries
- Oil and gas pipelines
- Water canals
- Natural protected areas

Environmental concerns and damage

- Strikes and attacks on cities
- Strikes and attacks on airports and military facilities
- Incidents and attacks at facilities with radioactive materials
- Strikes at industrial facilities
- Release of toxic chemicals
- Damage to gas distribution networks
- Damage to water and wastewater facilities
- Attacks on strategic resource-control locations
- Damage or disruptions in protected areas
- Vegetation fires in February–March 2022

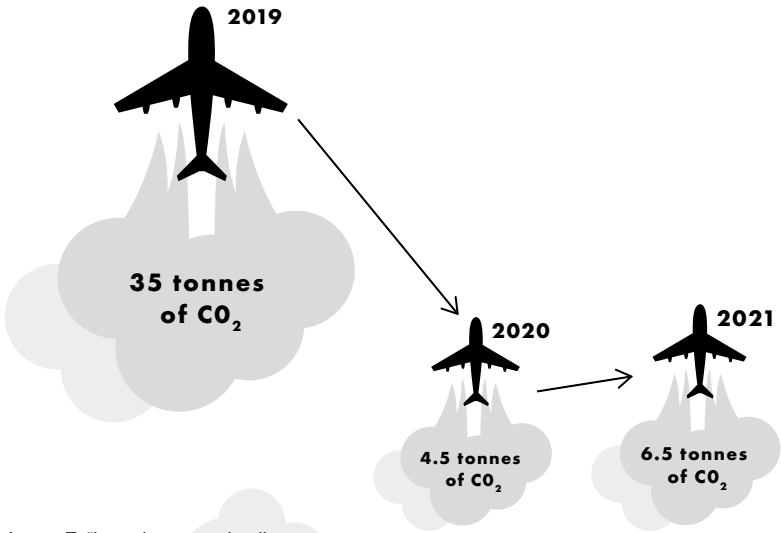
Information per 23 March 2022
 Sources: monitoring of national and international mass media and social networks, reports from the field, World Nuclear Association, Impact Initiatives, Ukrhydroenergo, ProtectedPlanet, CEOPS, Entsog, REEFMC, Ecoplatform, Mapstand, UNHCR, Openstreetmap, Wikipedia.

0 100 km

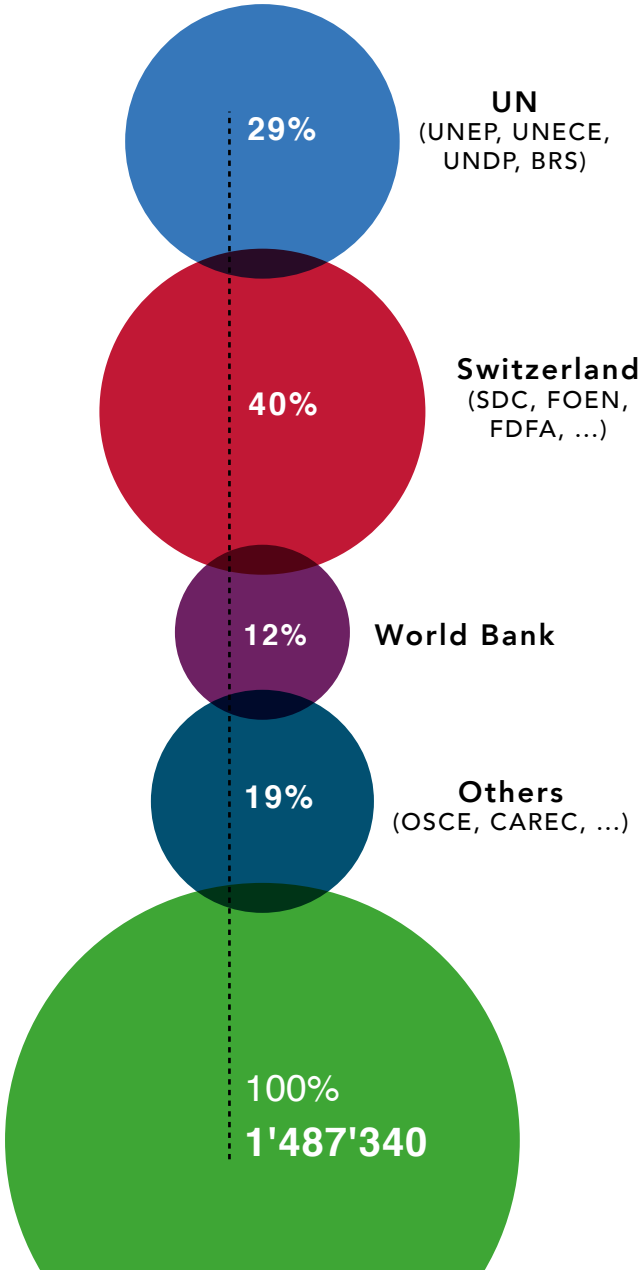
Map produced by Zoi Environment Network, March 2022

financial statement

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
total revenues	1'392'613	1'405'190	1'564'016	1'593'078	1'487'340
project work in progress	162'165	82'752	-121'518	11'928	16'205
operating expenses					
project expenses	459'123	564'764	773'927	683'860	596'447
personnel costs	656'537	631'166	728'848	760'157	748'599
other operating expenses	114'788	126'508	182'759	137'134	126'089



As per Zoi's environmental policy, an offset contribution was made via MyClimate.



afghanistan

When in early 2000s the global environment and security agenda reached Afghanistan and Central Asia, long before Zoï was conceived, a protozoï hitchhiked from Dushanbe to Kabul to discuss with Afghan people and organizations how to enhance cooperation with Central Asian neighbours on a number of pressing issues such as climate change, floods, pollution, disasters and biodiversity.

For the next twenty years we accompanied Afghanistan's transition from a war-torn nation to an increasingly hopeful society eager to invest in its future and its people, and to restore its environment. As part of our efforts, we have seen relations with neighbouring Tajikistan move from a negligible and dubious "we will not disclose any information" to formal agreements and eager cooperation over the environment and hydrology between the two governments. High-level Zoï-organized meetings and joint expeditions facilitated the process. In Kabul and distant Afghan provinces, we met and made friends with villagers, self-taught skiers, highly educated professionals. While Afghanistan was lagging behind its Central Asia neighbours in certain areas, it was arguably more advanced in others with its carefully crafted ancient irrigation systems combined with modern river basin management, sophisticated water databases and mapping services. We were looking forward to seeing this amazing country flourish.



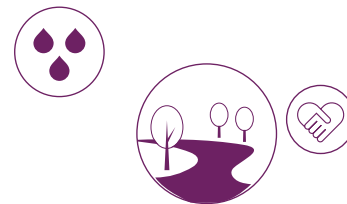
Sadly, this wealth of expertise, information and experience, part of which we tried to capture in the 2021 Visual Guide to the National Hydrology and Meteorology Services, is likely to remain unpublished, and may soon be lost altogether unless the new government takes these matters seriously and manages to restore credibility with international donors and Afghanistan's professional community. Shortly before August 2021 some Afghans were privately saying: "Let them take over, at least there will be peace". Then it just happened.

Aïna*, a trained environmental engineer and Zoï colleague in Kabul, had to flee the country. Despite vigorous efforts on her and our sides, for half a year no Western government or international organization she worked for was willing to offer her a safe home. Today Aïna is finally safe, but many other men and women we knew or worked with had to flee the country and are still looking for new homes on foreign soil.

We keep our hopes and up for Aïna, her people and their beautiful environment. By all our (limited) means Zoï will continue to monitor the situation and stay connected to the many professional contacts and friends in Afghanistan, wherever they may be.

* The name has been changed for security reasons

Nickolai Denisov





Mustafa Zaher Shah, crown prince and the head of Afghanistan's National Environment Protection Agency (centre), and Nematullo Safarov, Tajikistan's national coordinator for biodiversity and biosafety and a former Deputy Minister of Nature Protection (right), discuss the future of environmental cooperation between the two countries. Fifteen years later, and for the first time in their modern history, the two governments signed an inter-state agreement on environmental cooperation.

Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 2006.
Photo by Viktor Novikov



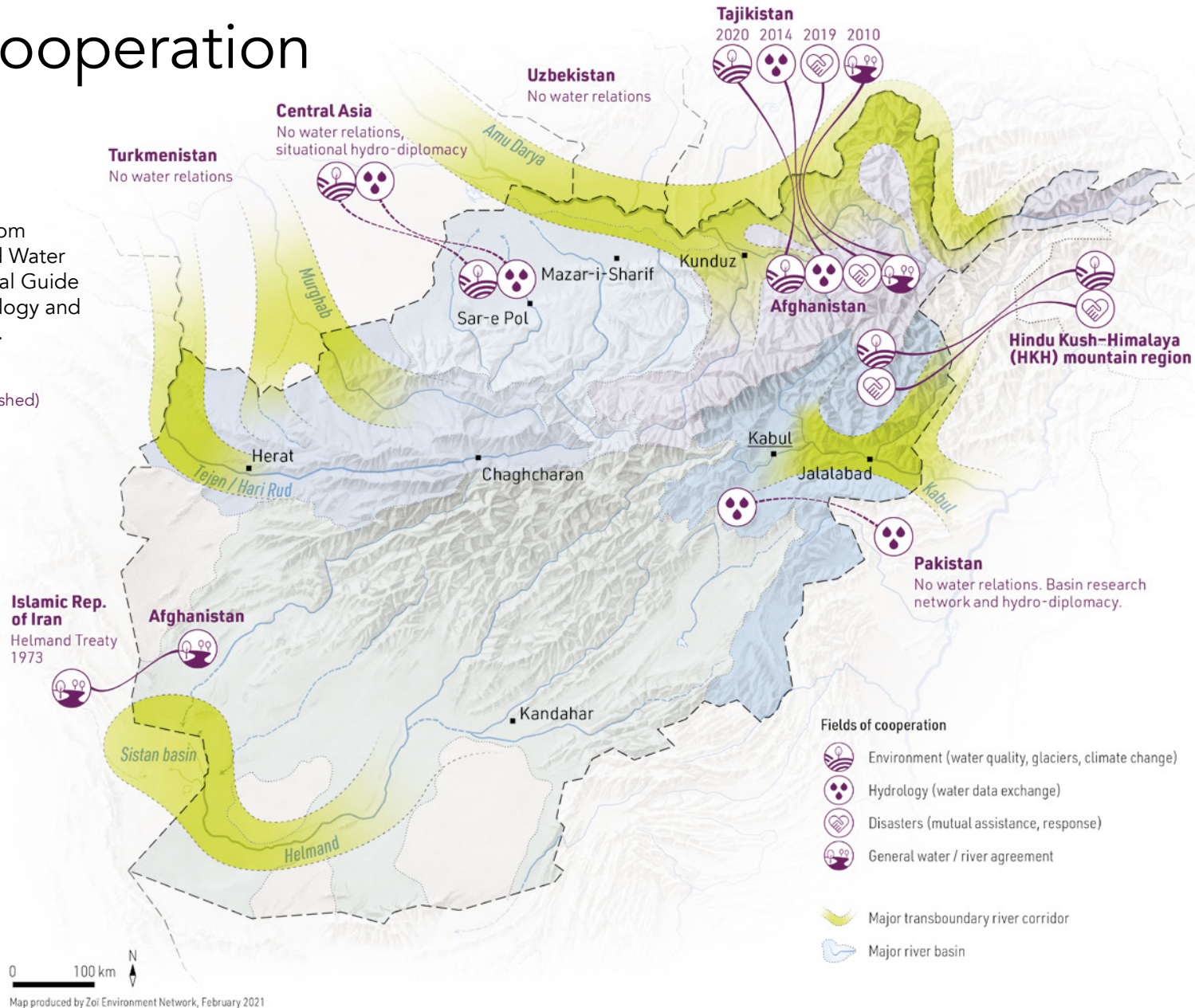
Female villagers in the Pamir mountains discuss with Aina how to collectively manage the newly established protected area in the Wakhan Valley.

Badakhshan province, Afghanistan, 2019.
Photo by Surat Toimastov

water cooperation

Map of cooperation over shared waters, from Weather, Climate, and Water in Afghanistan. A Visual Guide to the National Hydrology and Meteorology Services.

Zoi Environment Network, World Bank, 2021 (unpublished)



glasgow – geneva



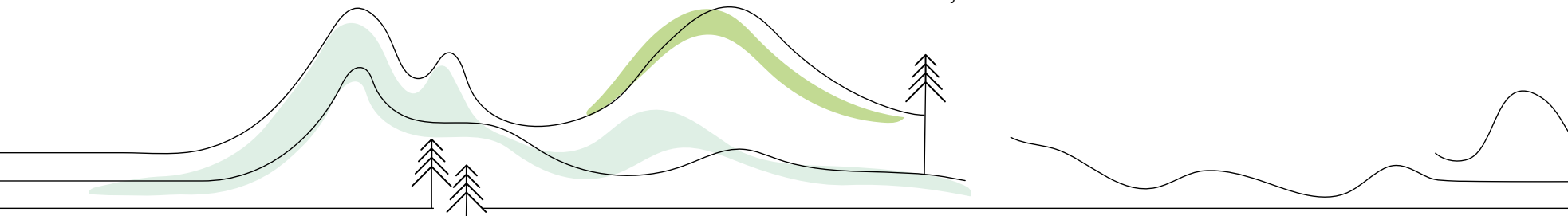
When thinking about climate change impacts, most people don't immediately think of mountains – which is something the Adaptation at Altitude programme is working to change. Mountains and their communities will see intense impacts such as rapid warming and glacial melt, more frequent and dangerous hazards, and a loss of biodiversity and food security for some of the world's most vulnerable people. A@A is a consortium of organizations working to improve knowledge of these issues and mainstream potential solutions for mountain communities around the world, and Zoï is leading the charge on some of the project outcomes.

In November 2021, A@A organized a dual-location hybrid event at the COP26 in Glasgow and the Cryosphere Hub in Geneva. This session united academics and policymakers to shed light on both the science behind climate change in mountains and potential solutions that can be implemented to address them. Participants joined physically at the Cryosphere Pavilion in Glasgow and the University of Geneva, or connected via livestream from around the world. With a whopping 10 speakers, the panel featured insights from Swiss university professors, the UNFCCC Focal Points from Georgia and Nepal, and even a virtual stream from Federal Councillor Simonetta Sommaruga, among other speakers.

The COP26 symbolized a return to in-person events and normalcy (to a certain degree). The Blue Zone was filled with global attendees, showcasing the newly opened borders in the wake of increased vaccination rates. Guests were seen donning suits with matching masks, a clear sign of the times and an effort to manage the over 10,000 attendees wandering the premises each day. Zoï Otto and Alex had the opportunity to attend in-person in Glasgow to organize the event at the Cryosphere Pavilion. Arriving directly from the train station, the first activity of their day was taking a mandatory auto-test on a bench outside of the venue in order to be allowed to enter. In addition to running the event, they had the opportunity to meet A@A project partners, some of whom for the first time in-person, attend more mountain events for Hindu Kush Himalaya Focus Day, and got to visit other notable pavilions to mention mountains and climate change as well.

Although it was a different conference experience overall compared to previous years, the COP26 gave participants a chance to have some much-desired face-to-face interaction after several COVID-19 waves. The new hybrid approach has also provided an opportunity for those who could not travel to access events online, bringing the positive and more carbon-friendly side of the pandemic to light. Several other Zoï's who did not attend in person still had the chance to organize, speak at, and tune into events to stay involved and support each other throughout the conference. At the end of the day, some bright sides existed for the hybrid-COP26 experience.

Alex Mackey & Nina Saalismaa



exploring the solutions portal

Discover some of the adaptation solutions available in the Portal

Peru

Irrigation for Adaptation Huaraz, Contumazá and Piura Provinces, Peru

Peruvian regional governments,
supported by the national authorities



Peru is improving irrigation channels in the mountains to provide smallholder farmers better resilience to climate change. Projects to hedge against changes in the water cycle include both technological improvements such as protection walls, covers and modern irrigation equipment, and nature-based solutions such as hillside afforestation.

Bolivia

Bioculture and Climate Change

Cochabamba, Bolivia
The Plurinational Authority of
Mother Earth with funding from
the Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation



The application of ancestral knowledge is helping 600 indigenous families strengthen watershed protection and promote the sustainable management of water, soil, forests, and animals across 300 communities.

Ethiopia

Sustainable Land Management

Ethiopia
Government of Ethiopia

Ecosystem restoration and land productivity enhancement through watershed management and rural land certification and administration are helping rural households within 45 watersheds tackle the long-term land degradation that is threatening the agricultural prospects for smallholder farmers.



China

Traditional Knowledge for Biodiversity Conservation

North-West Yunnan Province, China
Multi-stakeholder project

In the Eastern Himalayas, a community-based conservation plan informed by traditional knowledge is helping locals identify biodiversity issues and cope with climate challenges while empowering Tibetan women to participate in decision-making and implementation.



Myanmar

Climate- and Nutrition-Smart Villages
Myanmar
International Institute of Rural Reconstruction

Climate-Smart Villages in four major agro-ecological regions in Myanmar are using weather, water, carbon, nutrient, pest, and energy management techniques to combat food security challenges posed by climate change and to improve livelihood opportunities for farmers.



Pakistan

Reducing Risks from Glacial Lake Outburst Floods

Northern Pakistan
Government of Pakistan with support from
UNDP

Improved national management plans, training programmes, and early warning systems are making vulnerable communities in Northern Pakistan more resilient to the dangerous glacial lake outburst floods that are occurring with more frequency with rapid glacial melting.

1 million youth actions challenge

taking action for a more sustainable future

"I wish to see a planet that is healthy and clean. A planet with a well-balanced climate and well-balanced ecosystem.

I wish to see a planet where both the world leaders and the people are more aware and conscious and therefore strive to preserve and protect the environment."

– 1MYAC Ambassador Insaf, 23 from Tunisia

In recent years more and more young voices have been calling for climate action and sustainability. Movements like the Fridays for Future strikes that began in 2018 are evidence of this. Moreover, there are also increasingly efforts to include young people in regional, national and international decision-making by inviting them to share their perspective on environmental issues.

The 1 Million Youth Actions Challenge (1MYAC) is a new flagship initiative by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) that was launched in September 2021. With the objective of reaching 1,000,000 youth actions, this initiative aims to mobilize young people between 10 and 30 years old from all over the world to implement concrete actions for a sustainable future. On the 1MYAC platform (www.1myac.com), youth can sign up for individual or group

actions linked to one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals on water, consumption, climate or biodiversity. Practical actions can include cleaning up a beach or river area, organizing a clothes-swap event, committing to eat less meat or building a home for small animals. Working with more than 80 Youth Ambassadors and Partner Organizations globally to promote the challenge, the initiative hopes to demonstrate that young people can actively contribute to a greener planet. 1MYAC is thus, in line with the trends of today combining a government initiative with a bottom-up approach to encourage youth to act on their own.

Using our expertise in visual branding, communication and promotion, Zoï helped shape the 1MYAC initiative. We contributed to the development of the website, created logos and banners and participated in the 1MYAC launch at the 2021 IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille. Zoï also set up and manages the 1MYAC social media channels and overall, supports day-to-day operations.

With 1MYAC, Zoï has deepened its involvement in youth work, an area where much potential and hope to reach climate and environmental goals lies. Including diverse voices in policy making is necessary to build sustainable societies that can deal with current and forthcoming ecological issues to planet and people. The world and future generations depend on it.

Rebecca Jiménez

1 MILLION
YOUTH ACTIONS
challenge
1MYAC.COM





1MYAC at the initiative's launch at the IUCN World Conservation Congress.

Marseille, France, September 2021.
Photo by 1MYAC



Students participating in a 1MYAC reforestation action.

Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India, 2021.
Photo by Dr. N.H. Daves

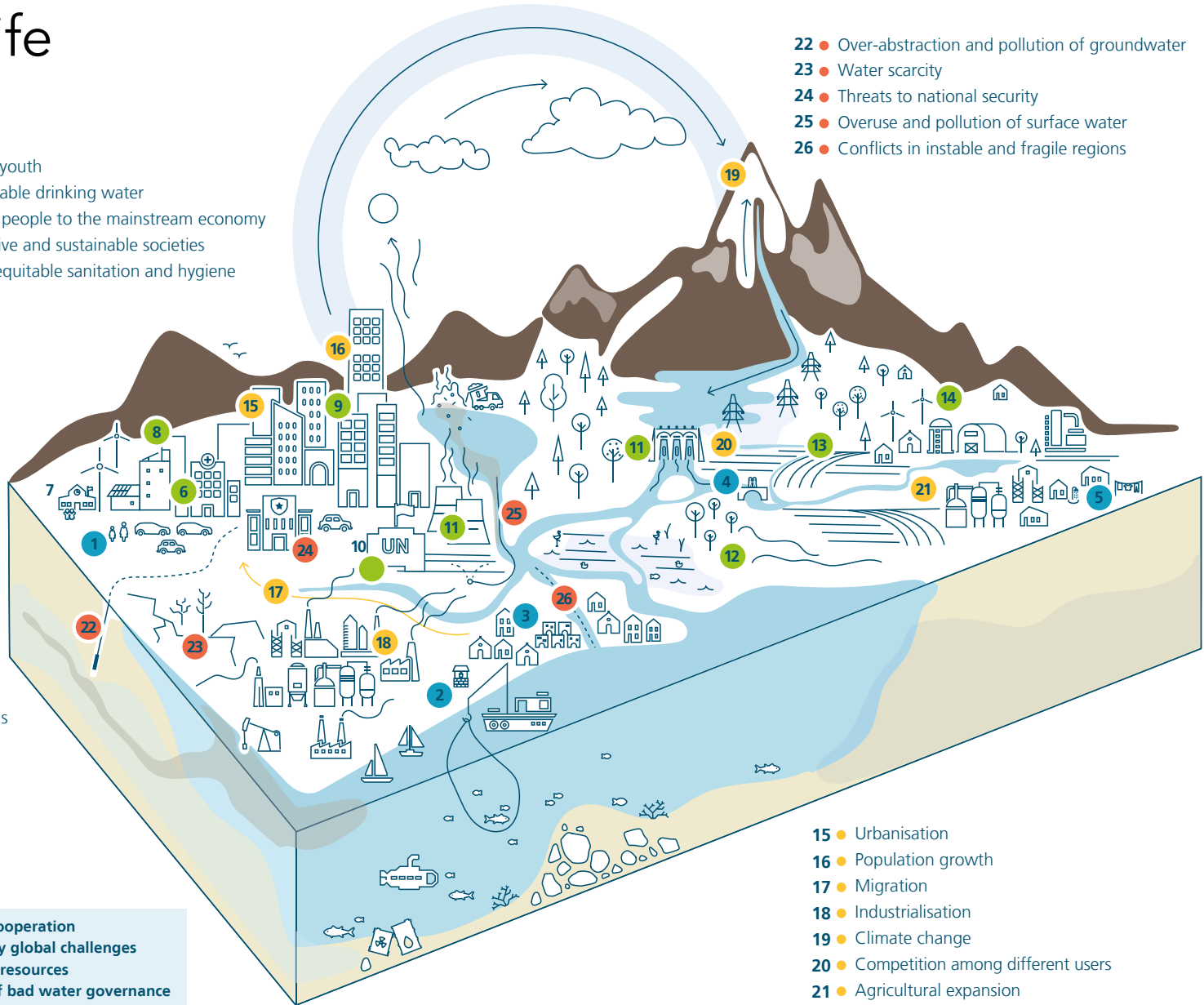
water is life

- 1 ● Empowered women and youth
- 2 ● Access to safe and affordable drinking water
- 3 ● Connecting marginalised people to the mainstream economy
- 4 ● Peaceful, inclusive, cohesive and sustainable societies
- 5 ● Access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene

- 6 ● Public health
- 7 ● Education
- 8 ● Sustainable development
- 9 ● Economic growth
- 10 ● Global governance
- 11 ● Producing energy
- 12 ● Integrity of ecosystems
- 13 ● Growing food
- 14 ● Sustaining rural livelihoods

- Benefits of water cooperation
- Links with other key global challenges
- Pressures on water resources
- Negative impacts of bad water governance

- 22 ● Over-abstraction and pollution of groundwater
- 23 ● Water scarcity
- 24 ● Threats to national security
- 25 ● Overuse and pollution of surface water
- 26 ● Conflicts in instable and fragile regions



- 15 ● Urbanisation
- 16 ● Population growth
- 17 ● Migration
- 18 ● Industrialisation
- 19 ● Climate change
- 20 ● Competition among different users
- 21 ● Agricultural expansion

mountain biodiversity

When it comes to biodiversity, Zoï is like a pioneering plant. We explore new niches, map out opportunities and risks, test solutions, and inspire others to work with us to create symbiosis. Ten years ago, in the wake of the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, Zoï and our project partners produced Central Asia Mountains, a report focusing on the use and fragility of natural resources in the region. Five years later, in a Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) project, Zoï applied the global standard for key biodiversity areas to the Mountains of Central Asia hotspot, developed an ecosystem profile and designed a grant programme to support civil society conservation organizations.

Zoï is pleased to report that despite Covid-19 and other challenges, the CEPF grant programme is producing many inspiring results across the region – protection of the snow leopard, management of wild fruit-and-nut forests, afforestation around the Aral Sea and progress on other fronts. The World Bank and other large donors are supporting landscape restoration, nature-based approaches to disaster risk reduction and a transition to a green economy, so we hope to see many more tangible results during this UN decade of ecosystem restoration.

Meanwhile, large-scale and fast-moving infrastructure projects are crisscrossing Central Asia. Sponsored by China's Belt and Road Initiative and by regional economic corridor initiatives, these projects are subject to consultations with civil society and conservation experts. The stakes are high – the fragmentation of habitats and the loss of natural areas upon which local populations depend – and the voices of conservation advocates need to be respected if we are to avoid the irreparable harm that these projects may do. The lack of transparency fuels many local conflicts – over mining practices and water and land allocations – and emotional arguments and corrupt deals can undermine consideration of international and domestic safeguards and commitments.

Zoï helps find solutions by being a careful observer and by sharing knowledge and providing local organizations and the general public with rarely accessible information. In 2022, at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Kunming, China, the world will be deciding on its goals for the conservation and restoration of our global natural resources. Zoï will be watching.

Viktor Novikov



Training on biodiversity safeguards in the remote Alai Valley of Kyrgyzstan.

Photo by Kanybek Isabaev



Impacts on gold mining on river ecosystems, Kyrgyzstan.

Photo by Kanybek Isabaev

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Chairwoman of Zero Corruption Conference

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Professor, Environmental Governance and Territorial Development,
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Yvan.Rochat – Geneva

Secrétaire général, Commune de Genthod



Zoï board members and Zoïs on the way home
from the retreat on board the “Savoy”.

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Zoï annual retreat at the Château de Bossey.

Château de Bossey, Bogis-Bossey
Photo by Zoï Environment Network



As every year, Zoï participates in the Bike to Work campaign, here the team poses in front of our offices.

International Environment House II, Geneva
Photo by Alex Mackey

zoi partners





Design & layout by Carolyne Daniel

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Consultative status with UN ECOSOC and accredited with
UNFCCC, UNEA and IOM.
Member of the Swiss NGO DRR Platform, the NDC Partnership and the
BRI International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC).