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zoï environment network

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

24



Editorial

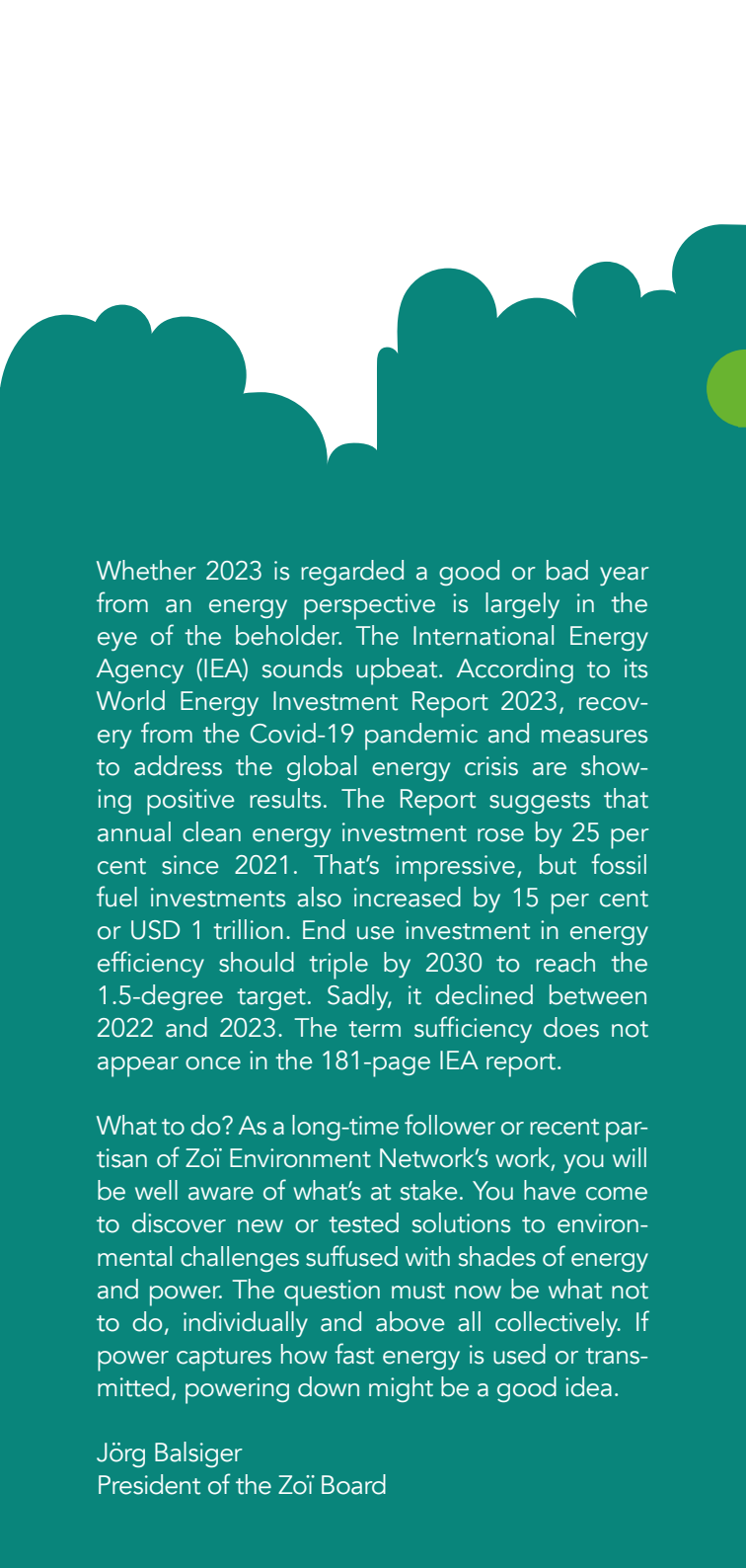
News flash (as if needed!): the world has issues with power. Dictatorial power undermines human rights on all continents; emergency powers occasionally achieve the same in democracies. Air power kills innocent women, men, and children in more conflict zones than we dare count. Corporate power ravages ecosystems and livelihoods. People power (so far) unsuccessfully calls to end hostilities against civilians in Gaza. Flower power is, alternatively, a distant memory or a tongue-in-cheek reference to the pesticide-intensive, export-oriented cut flower industry in Latin America and elsewhere.

Power is frequently associated with energy, but the link cannot quite put us at ease. To be sure, when electricity, an important form of energy, first appeared in non-technical writing in the 18th century, it was identified as a source of life. Popular science accounts, of male and female poles, for example, frequently veered into the sleazy.



A century later, electricity had become associated with death and evil. The installation of poles connecting networks of wires, necessitated by the introduction of the telegraph, drove widespread public fear of this invisible force. Serving from 1889 to 1893, US President Benjamin Harrison allegedly instructed White House staff to turn lights on and off because he was afraid of getting electrocuted. Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* came to life after being hit by an electrical shock from lighting. As I write these lines, Russia is bombing Ukraine's electricity infrastructure. Several US states still reserve the electric chair as an option for execution.

Electricity as a form of energy is now ubiquitous, but it retains its ambivalent character. Policymakers point to electrification as a corollary to ridding the planet of fossil fuel energy, conjuring up a world of electric cars, trucks, ships, and planes, electric heating, electric everything. Power up solar panels, wind turbines, hydroelectric generators; power down coal- or gas-fired power plants (but what to do with nuclear reactors?). The buzz of more powerful and less mineral-hungry batteries is as energizing as that of peak oil, large-scale carbon capture and storage, and the hydrogen economy.



Whether 2023 is regarded a good or bad year from an energy perspective is largely in the eye of the beholder. The International Energy Agency (IEA) sounds upbeat. According to its World Energy Investment Report 2023, recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and measures to address the global energy crisis are showing positive results. The Report suggests that annual clean energy investment rose by 25 per cent since 2021. That's impressive, but fossil fuel investments also increased by 15 per cent or USD 1 trillion. End use investment in energy efficiency should triple by 2030 to reach the 1.5-degree target. Sadly, it declined between 2022 and 2023. The term sufficiency does not appear once in the 181-page IEA report.

What to do? As a long-time follower or recent partisan of Zoï Environment Network's work, you will be well aware of what's at stake. You have come to discover new or tested solutions to environmental challenges suffused with shades of energy and power. The question must now be what not to do, individually and above all collectively. If power captures how fast energy is used or transmitted, powering down might be a good idea.

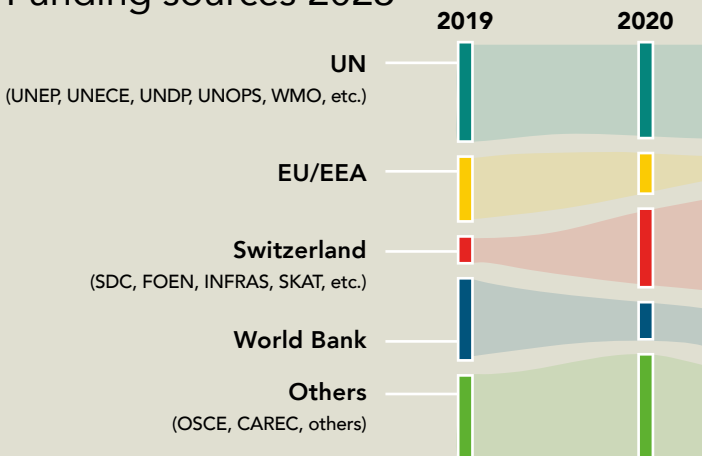
Jörg Balsiger
President of the Zoï Board



Financial statement

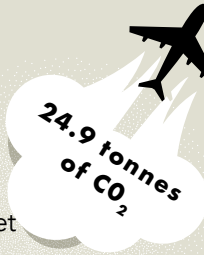
	2019	2020
total revenues	1'564'016	1'593'078
project work in progress	-121'518	11'928
operating expenses		
project expenses	773'927	683'860
personnel costs	728'848	760'157
other operating expenses	182'759	137'134

Funding sources 2023

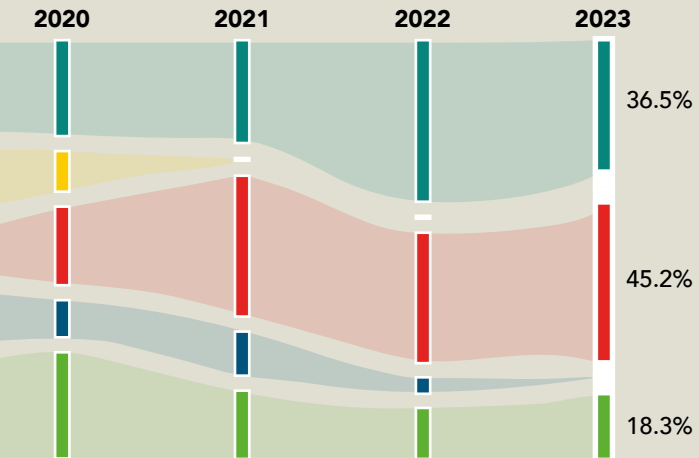


Zoï flight emissions

As per Zoï's environmental policy, an offset contribution was made via



2020	2021	2022	2023
1'593'078	1'487'340	1'629'962	1'783'785
11'928	16'205	5'258	30'894
683'860	596'447	702'269	744'416
760'157	748'599	822'926	873'407
137'134	126'089	99'509	135'068





Zoi team

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Graphic design, climate and biodiversity

Carolyn Daniel

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Defne Salli

Analysis and communication internship

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War impact analysis and data management

Emmanuelle Bournay – Crest

Cartography and statistical analysis

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Viktor Novikov
Project development and management Central Asia

Zoï board

Jörg Balsiger, President – Geneva
Professor, Environmental Governance and
Territorial Development, Université de Genève

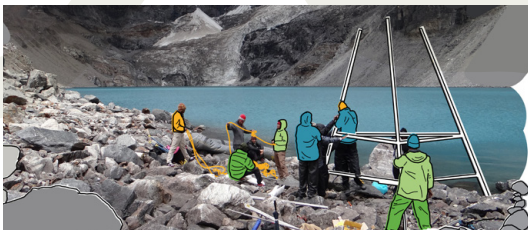
Yvan Rochat – Geneva
Secrétaire général, Commune de Genthod

Karen Landmark – Arendal
Director, GRID-Arendal

Stories in 2023

At an impasse: Renewable energy in the mountains

Projects that support livelihoods in the mountains and combat climate change seem to be ideal solutions in remote areas, but Swiss communities have rejected large-scale projects over concerns of environmental damage.



In an effort to save paper, ink and postage we have made this year's paper edition of our annual report quite thin.

The QR code leads to the longer, all-digital report that includes the full stories advertised in this printed publication.

**Annual
report 2023**



Zoï website



Leveraging AI for creative purposes...

...builds on the understanding that the creative process starts with human ideas, and that we can use AI to augment, rather than replace, our creative efforts without compromising the integrity of our craft or our commitment to traditional arts.



Zoï and the COPS

Zoï is a longtime observer and participant at the Conferences of the Parties to the conventions on climate change, biodiversity, and others, and has recently attended a Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.



Energizing responsibility along value chains...

... calls for communication and policy advocacy to foster collaboration, and for both consumers and manufacturers to respect the planet's natural limits and consider environmental and social issues along the entire supply chain.



Seizing the opportunities for cross-benefits...

...offered by Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Zoï helps stakeholders understand and appreciate the extensive synergies among such topics as mercury, climate change, biodiversity, and access to information.



Conflict zones...

...have raised challenges for Zoï in our efforts to monitor the environmental situation in Ukraine, to re-establish our peace-time cooperation with Palestine on environmental causes, and to maintain our contacts with Afghanistan's professional community.



Founded in 2009, we are a non-profit environmental organization driven by our belief that access to information lies at the heart of democracy and plays a prominent role in the quest to build sustainable societies. Offering analysis, training, dialogue and communication, we work on the following topics: climate change, biodiversity, chemicals and waste, security and conflict, water, responsible consumption and production, and access to information.

Design & layout by Carolyne Daniel

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