

ANNUAL REPORT



Slow Motion Projects is entering its second year

Some stories start with a handshake; some start with a smile. Ours started with a train ride; handshakes and smiles ensued. Over the past year, Slow Motion Projects has taken us across the entire breadth of the Old World and back again, to work with a diversity of people and cultures we could hardly dream of a year ago. We did not count the kilometres, we did not count the hours: what counted for us was only the progress towards what we promised you when we created the association: with your support, we would enable sustainable development through environmental education.

In the short history of our presence on this planet, it has never been more urgent to realise and address the environmental destruction we have brought upon ourselves. We are all responsible. We all have a part to play. And we all know the key: education, information, innovation. One year in, and our mission appears clearer than ever. We have proven that we are very serious, and we are here to stay. We have bold plans for the future, and we need your help to bring them to life.

In the following pages, you will discover how the long Slow Motion Projects journey began; because it just began. The stories you will read are not really ours: they are the stories of extraordinary people from diverse lands, diverse upbringings, using diverse methods. What they all do have in common is a fierce determination to change the environmental status quo. Together with you, they are Slow Motion Projects. We look forward to many more years of working with such a rich diversity.

The Slow Motion team in traditional Bhutanese lothing during a teaching engagement in Thimphu.

Nicolas Perony

Larea

"These are the stories of extraordinary people who all have in common a fierce determination to change the status quo."

Together, we build a fair future for our planet, and its people.



4 projects

completed in 3 Asian countries

CHF 31'775

donated

53 donors ♥

from 7 different countries

Meet the Slow Motion Projects team



Lisa Bounoure **Co-founder**

Lisa is responsible for the project coordination and partnership management at Slow Motion Projects. She believes in cooperation between people and individual behaviour changes as the main driver of sustainable development. Lisa has a scientific background in nutrition and several years of experience as a project manager around the topic of sustainability. Her favourite places on Earth are her family garden in the south of France, Switzerland's Engadine valley, and Bhutan.



Nicolas Perony Co-founder

Nicolas is in charge of Slow Motion Projects' strategy, and supervising the implementation of projects in the field. He deeply believes in the combination of technology and education to solve the issues we face as a civilisation. His background is in engineering, data science, and complex systems. When he is not tinkering in a workshop or on a computer, he can be found running and riding around mountains in Switzerland and beyond, generally behind his indefatigable dog Okko.



James Glattfelder Co-founder and mentor

James is a scientist and philosopher interested in fundamental theories and fascinated by the complexity of the real world. Over 10 years ago, he founded the NGO noon.ch, supporting education projects in India. From legal aspects to project strategy, James is always there to help Slow Motion Projects in deciding where to go.





We live in a hyper-connected world. Every day, billions of people everywhere on this planet exchange information and collaborate. Yet, are we taking advantage of this connectivity to spread knowledge, help each other, reduce inequalities and join hands to save and fairly use our resources? At Slow Motion Projects, we think we can do better. Since its creation in 2015, the association has worked to connect those people who want to take an active role in building a sustainable world.

We build bridges between local NGOs active in developing regions of the world, and volunteers and donors from the West. Together, we create environmental education and outreach projects with the goal of encouraging sustainable behaviours in underprivileged populations, all the while allowing them to afford a better life. We identify and select partner NGOs whose mission is aligned with our

"We create environmental education and outreach projects with the goal of encouraging sustainable behaviours in people living in developing regions, all the while allowing them to afford a better life."

goals, and together with them we design impactful projects. For our first year in 2016, we reconnected kids from the Ulan Bator slums with the nature surrounding them, we renovated an environmental museum and launched a new exhibition in the Yunnan province of China, we nurtured underprivileged children of New Delhi so they can receive quality environmental education, and we organised garbage pollution prevention activities in schools, villages and urban areas of the Western Himalaya.

Slow Motion Projects provides support in an environmentally sound way. To minimise the carbon impact of our actions, our volunteers avoid flying when travelling to the project locations. On site, we minimise our footprint by favouring ecological housing and foods with lower environmental impact. We provide full transparency on our financial operations. We commit to using the complete amount of the individual donations we receive for developing our projects. The overhead costs of the Slow Motion Projects operations and the expenses related to the work of our volunteers in the projects are covered through our savings for now, and sponsorships in the future.



MONGOLIA

Nature education for children

In May and June of 2016, the Bayasgalant day care centre in Ulaanbaatar opened its doors to Slow Motion Projects. Working closely with an incredible women-only team of social workers and teachers, we seeded nature education for the Bayasgalant children.

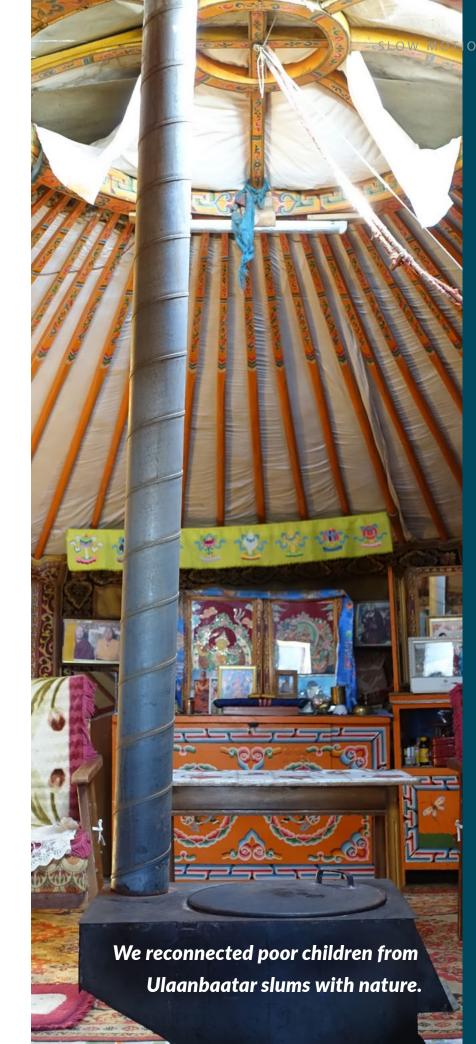
"Mongolia is the land of sun and

Wind". When talking to nomads, this is what you will often hear as they describe their magnificent country. They would also tell you non-stop about the rich and diverse Mongolian nature – steppes, mountains, deserts –, how they feel proud of it and close to it.

In Ulaanbaatar though, this vision has been somewhat forgotten. The capital city of Mongolia is growing at an alarming rate. Nomads are selling their unique resource, cattle, in the hopes of finding betters jobs and better lives in the city. Sadly, this often remains a pipe dream. Nomadic families migrating to Ulaanbaatar often cannot find decent jobs and are forced to settle in yurts on the outskirts of the city. There, wild horses and green steppes have disappeared, replaced with muddy streets, polluted air, poor sanitation and schooling for the children.

In partnership with the NGO Bayasgalant – "joy" in Mongolian –, Slow Motion Projects allowed over one hundred children from the Ulaanbaatar slums to go on outdoor excursions to the neighbouring Terelj national park. Assisted by the teachers and social workers from the Bayasgalant day care centre, we organised camping trips of 1 to 3 days for the kids.

"After the excursions, many kids told their teachers how happy and proud of themselves they felt about protecting their nature."





KEY NUMBERS AND FACTS

4 excursions into the nature for over 100 children aged 3 to 19.

15 bird nest boxes built by the

children, set up in trees in the Terelj national park.

30 tomato patches planted in

the newly renovated greenhouse.

Dozens of books and toys

added to the library and nature corner in the centre.

A lot of fun was on the programme: ball games, hiking, swimming in the river, eating chocolate spread sandwiches, and dancing around the bonfire. Armed with gloves and bags bigger than the smallest of them, the kids also joined hands to render popular camping areas of the Terelj national park entirely garbage-free.

Slow Motion Projects supported Bayasgalant in the renovation of the outdoor areas at the day care centre, in Ulaanbaatar. Together, we renovated the playground and rebuilt the greenhouse to allow the kids to grow tomatoes and other fresh produce by themselves.



The older ones put up big wooden signs reminding the next visitors of the park not to dump garbage in the nature. They also built wooden bird nesting houses, which were installed in the trees around the camping zones. After the excursions, many kids told their teachers how happy and proud of themselves they felt about protecting their nature. For Slow Motion Projects, this was the best reward for our actions. New excursions for the children are already planned for the summer of 2017.

NEW PLAYGROUND AND GARDEN

Bayasgalant has been running the day care centre since 2009. It is a place where children receive healthy meals, basic care, clean clothes and school support. The Bayasgalant team is also there to teach them important values: respect for each other, and respect for their environment.



We also supported the local team in creating an educational organic garden where the kids could learn about ecology and nutrition, all the while enjoying digging out earthworms and splashing water at each other. After a long and snowy winter, the garden, greenhouse, and playground will need further renovation. Slow Motion Projects will be there again to bring Bayasgalant much needed support.



In Asia, perhaps more than anywhere else, things usually do not happen according to plan. Before the winter 2016-2017, Slow Motion Projects and Bayasgalant were planning to provide 40 families living in poverty with access to solar electricity and heating. However, this action had to be reconsidered as the solar equipment was at risk of being stolen from them.

"In 2017, the kindergarten will be equipped with solar electricity and heating."

Instead, we will equip the Bayasgalant Kindergarten with solar panels and batteries. Through this action, the children and the community living around the centre will get the chance to learn about solar power, a free and renewable energy source which could reduce the dramatic air pollution in Ulaanbaatar.







CHINA

Spotlights on sustainability and ecology

Only 10 kilometres away from Lijiang Old Town, China's largest touristic attraction, the Green Education Centre is now hosting the first interactive exhibition in Yunnan entirely dedicated to environmental challenges and sustainable solutions in Yunnan and China. And guess what? Slow Motion Projects built it.

"We radically

transformed the museum."

When planning to renovate the

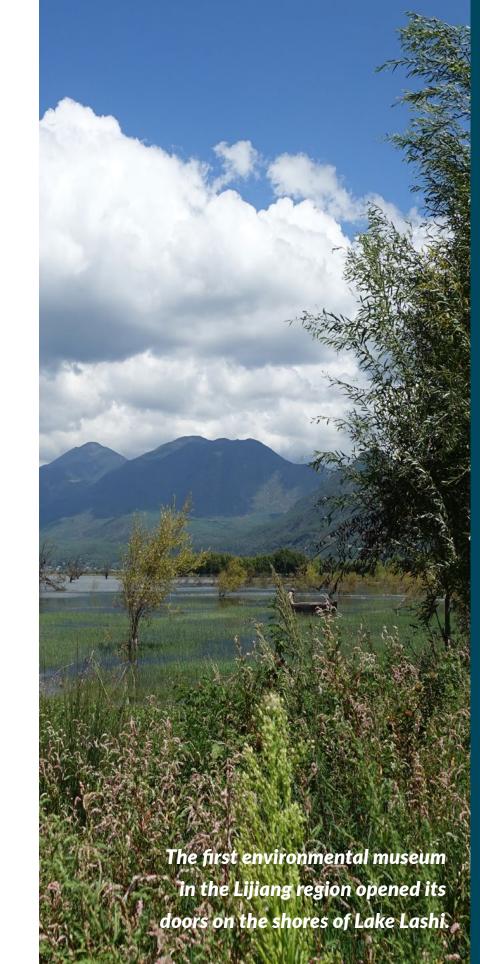
museum at the Green Education Centre (GEC), we set our ambitions very high, even though our budget was rather limited. Yongsong Chen, director of the Centre and founder of our partner NGO Yunnan EcoNetweork, did not

hesitate a second though, and gave us total freedom to create a whole new exhibition nearly from scratch. Our mission was clear: inform Chinese and international visitors about the environmental crisis in China and even

more importantly, show them how they can become actors of the change towards a better, healthier future. We spent three months rebuilding the environmental museum. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, we radically transformed the centre and turned it into what we hope will become a must-see for tourists visiting Lijiang. First, we developed a full scenario of the visit and mapped it into the available space. Working closely with the Green Education Centre team and four Slow Motion Projects volunteers, we completely redesigned the

rooms of the museum, building wooden walls, replacing the whole electrical wiring, installing a new lighting system, cutting and sewing curtains, and putting up the furniture. We wanted to create engaging and interactive content addressing the

delicate environmental issues in China, but we could not afford to buy any of the ready-made sophisticated models and digital interfaces found in modern museums... So we found innovative





KEY NUMBERS AND FACTS

3 months of renovations

at the Green Education Center.

Over $80m^2$ of roof space covered with

solar panels to create a solar house.

A grant of CHF 11'500 offered

by the city of Lijiang to support the project.

A giant interactive map of $4m^2$ built with less than CHF 300.



solutions to get the effects we wanted without breaking the bank. For instance, to illustrate the impacts of environmental degradation on human health, we built an oppressive dark room equipped with a lighting system allowing for the whole room to be pitch black, while photo frames showing shocking pictures of people suffering due to environmental issues are lit one at a time, in a programmable fashion. In parallel with

"We wanted the exhibition to make people think and react with their emotions, by stimulating their minds but also all their senses."

the renovations, we created the exhibition's content, in two languages: Chinese and English. During two very intense months, we combed through scientific references, read, learned





and processed information, wrote texts, designed posters and programmed computers to play movies and display interactive information. We wanted the exhibition to make people think and react with their emotions, by stimulating their minds but also all their senses. Thanks to the generous support of the Lijiang city, a brand new class room fully powered with solar energy was built to welcome students enrolling for sustainability workshops at GEC. We also built an educational organic garden where students and visitors can learn basic principles of organic agriculture.

For the inauguration event, Yongsong Chen invited to GEC a selected crowd of representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, renowned academics, renewable energy professionals, and members of the press. The local television was there and interviewed us about our actions. The first feedback we have received since then has been very positive, and it looks like GEC is drawing significantly more visitors now!

A NEW GREEN EDUCATION CENTRE IN SOUTHERN YUNNAN

Building on the success of the Green Education Centre concept in Lijiang, Slow Motion Projects and Yunnan Econetwork are planning for 2017 the construction of a new Green Educa-



tion Centre in the autonomous prefecture of Xishuangbanna, bordering Myanmar and Laos in the southwestern tip of Yunnan. Xishuangbanna is ecologically very significant, as it is traversed by the Mekong river and home to fragile tropical ecosystems. The new centre will also include a museum dedicated to sustainable development in the region. Key local activities such as rubber and Pu'er tea production will be highlighted in the exhibition, along with environmental challenges the region is facing and the local and regional efforts made to rehabilitate the tropical and river flora and fauna. The centre will also conduct eco-oriented activities for students and tourists. With this new centre, Yunnan EcoNetwork will get closer to its long-term vision of creating a hub of environmental education centres between China and Southeast Asia.





INDIA

Changing the life of underprivileged children in New Delhi, changing the future of their city

In the world's most polluted city, Slow Motion Projects made a crazy bet: allow slum children to exit poverty and become climate heroes in their communities. Discover how we supported our partner, the Indian NGO Pardarshita, in running school support centres.

With a population of over 25 million,

Delhi is not only one of the largest cities on Earth, it is also the most polluted. Extreme traffic and smokes produced by poor agricultural management in northern India result in dramatic air pollution. Each year, respiratory diseases affect more and more children, who are forced to play inside or even miss school during the frequent peaks of toxic air particle levels. We think children should not have to foot the bill for problems they have not created. In fact, they are the ones who can say no and decide to fight for better living conditions.

In 2016, Slow Motion Projects provided continuous financial support to the NGO Pardarshita, which battles to facilitate the implementation of the 25% clause regarding admission of underprivileged children into private schools. We helped Pardarshita in running their two centres for school support in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. All year long, the children visiting those centres received free help with their school homework, and could read books at will. Before the winter holiday, we delivered 90 nature books to the two centres, which were an immediate hit with the kids.





KEY NUMBERS AND FACTS

34 children aged 5 to 12 received school support for one year.

90% of the children visiting the centres were enrolled into private schools in 2016.

2 managers for the support centres were employed by Pardarshita.

The mothers of those children are often women facing difficult life situations: they may be abused by their husband, victim of violence (often linked to addiction problems), or when they decide to leave, they become isolated and alone with their children. Pardarshita also supported those women through the enrolment process of their children into private schools, providing them access to computers and help with the procedure. Thanks to the work of Pardarshita and Slow Motion Projects, 90% of the children visiting the centres were enrolled into private schools in 2016. Those children realise, more than any other, the importance of education. They are showing great progress at school, and more importantly, this makes them and their families happy.

In 2017, Slow Motion Projects will supply the school centres with new nature and environmental education books. In particular, we will bridge our two Indian projects of 2016 by acquiring and distributing in the centres the nature book "The Secret Garden", and further publications of our partner NGO in Uttarakhand, Nature Science Initiative.

"The kids are showing great progress at school, and more importantly, this makes them and their families happy."







"We delivered 90 nature books to the two centres, which were an immediate hit with the kids."





INDIA

Garbage-free urban and rural Uttarakhand: a model for sustainable development in India

Garbage pollution in India does not only heavily impair public health, it also affects agriculture and greatly hinders the nation's economy. Awareness and engagement of the public will play a crucial role in changing the future of India.

"In rural areas, plastic

ingestion kills hundreds

of thousands of cows

every year."

India is facing an unprecedented

garbage crisis. The problem is complex but can be

traced down to two major causes: the lack of awareness about the health impact of dumping and burning dry waste, and the absence of infrastructure for collecting and managing solid waste.

India is among the largest producers and consumers worldwide of plastics for food and goods packaging. The

Indian plastic frenzy has dramatic consequences on public health, as toxic substances contained in plastic leak into soil and water before coming back up the food chain... What goes

around comes around. In rural areas, plastic ingestion kills hundreds of thousands of cows every year, a huge toll taken on the income of farmers. The volume of unsegregated garbage, in which organic and dry waste are mixed, is increasing alarmingly around popular tourist destinations. Edible matter in garbage constitutes an attractive food resource for wild animals, but when no segregation is





KEY NUMBERS AND FACTS

3 village schools of Uttarakhand

enrolled into the garbage programme in December 2016.

5 meet-up events organised in rural areas.

30 garbage walks in Dehradun planned for 2017.



done they end up consuming toxic plastic waste. In the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand, our partner NGO Nature Science Initiative (NSI) is working to increase awareness and bring solutions to the garbage issue. In the winter of 2016, Slow Motion Projects and NSI developed an action plan comprising school programs to sensitise children, awareness campaigns in rural villages, tourist destinations and urban

areas of Uttarakhand, and the development of partnerships with other organisations ensuring the collection and management of waste. This action plan will be rolled out in 2017, focusing on particular areas of the state's capital, Dehradun, as well 20 villages and 2 major Himalayan tourist spots. Thanks to the support of our donors, we could hire a young and dynamic communication team who will create short movies for social



media, posters, flyers, and promotional stickers to be displayed in stores participating in the garbage-free programme. We also supported the work of a dynamic young coordinator tasked with enrolling schools into the programme; he already presented and discussed the garbage issue in 3 village schools of Uttarakhand in December 2016. Interventions in 40 schools are already planned for 2017.

"Dehradun could become the first garbage-free city in India."

In Dehradun, NSI is planning to organise public walks in different areas of the city where residents can learn about waste, and how to reduce and manage it.

With this plan, we expect to see clear steps towards the reduction of garbage pollution in Uttarakhand. This will serve as a fundamental basis for the development of a responsible and competitive agriculture, it will help preserve wildlife and nature, thereby allowing for tourism to further develop in a responsible way, and it will give the opportunity for Dehradun to become a pioneering clean city in India.





Discover the new projects of Slow Motion Motion for 2017!

The first year of Slow Motion Projects has been a resounding success. With the support of our donors, and everyone who helped us along the way, we completed all the projects we had planned.

"Solutions to prevent climate change and reduce poverty exist, all over the world. Slow Motion Projects is there to find those people who can make a change and support them"

Thanks to a growing network of collaborations with our partner NGOs, we could also develop new partnerships and identify new projects to carry out our mission: support a socially and environmentally sustainable development.

In 2017, we will not only continue to develop the 2016 collaborations, but we are also starting on two new adventures!





Empower the youth to save Ladakh

"The people of Ladakh are among the first victims of a global change they did not create...

Yet in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds, they are proving incredibly resourceful."

You may know Ladakh as a remote

Himalayan region, famed for its wildlife, trekking routes and magnificent Buddhist monasteries. Despite its assimilation into the Indian republic in the mid-19th century, the two modern districts of Ladakh (Leh and Kargil) enjoy relative political autonomy nowadays, due to their cultural and religious differences with the rest of the state.

Beyond its cultural and historical interest, Ladakh has a crucial ecological significance. A high mountain region (most villages are situated above 3500m), it is a harsh and unforgiving place; its climate is classified as "cold desert", with temperatures reaching over 30°C in summer and under -40°C in winter. Extremely low precipitation levels mean that people depend on glacial meltwater to sustain their agricultural activity, traditionally centered around barley cultivation (in the world's highest fields) and livestock breeding (in particular yaks, very well adapted to the high altitude and harsh climate).

For thousands of years, a regular pattern of glacial melt coupled with meagre summer rains allowed a stable population to thrive. Sadly, today's changing climate threatens



the very existence of the Ladakhi people. Flash floods, such as the 2010 one that claimed 255 lives, destroy crops and settlements. Receding glaciers yield ever smaller quantities of water every year, further jeopardising the survival of crops and livestock. Alarmingly, we now understand the role of "black carbon", coming in large part from the burning of biomass in the northern plains of India, in creating a vicious cycle of global warming: black carbon particles deposit onto snow and ice, reducing surface albedo and increasing

temperatures; in turn, higher surface temperatures lead to lower glacial cover and further decreased albedo. And if all this wasn't enough, the region is now at the heart of a tripartite geopolitical standoff involving India, Pakistan, and China, among the stakes of which is access to the rarefying waters of the Indus river, irrigating the largest land area of any river system in the world.

Ironically, the people of Ladakh are among the first victims of a global change they did not create... Yet, in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds, they are proving incredibly resourceful.



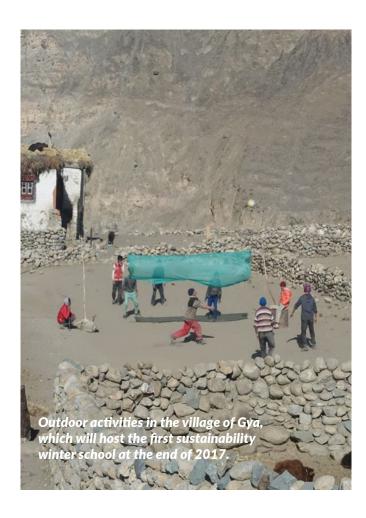
In the early winter of 2016-2017, Slow Motion Projects spent a month working with the Ice Stupa project, whose aim is nothing less than to build artificial glaciers to solve the water crisis in the Himalayas. We met Mingyur Rigzen, a young Ladakhi who, after completing his studies at the renowned SECMOL alternative school near Leh, realised that the last thing he wanted was to see his native land dry up, wither, and die. Aged 25 only, he has already become a successful eco-entrepreneur by growing and selling organic peas which no one thought capable of striving above 4000 metres. Leading the Ice Stupa field team in the winter and wildlife tourist groups in the summer, Mingyur slowly saved money and built, with his own hands, an ecotourism lodge in his small hamlet of Rumtse, on the road from Leh to Manali. But perhaps his most significant environmental achievement is the creation, with former school mates, of the "Youth Association of Gya", a small independent organisation whose mission is to empower other young Ladakhis in building a sustainable economy. The YAG encourages the development of ecotourism by training local youth, and educates the villagers on the importance of wildlife conservation.



Mingyur Rigzen is sowing the seeds of the region's future through the most important empowerment vector of all: education. Slow Motion Projects will further enable Mingyur's action by supporting the organisation of a sustainability winter school at the end of 2017, allowing 50 local students to gather and incubate ideas about sustainable development for Ladakh. During a boot camp of about one month, students from Gya and villages around will attend workshops and conferences helping them to develop their own social businesses, in area such as eco-tourism, organic agriculture, or handicraft production and retail. To promote the school and raise funds for its further development, students will also prepare a theatre play addressing climate and environmental issues in Ladakh and present it on the last day of the program at the village community hall. The school will be free for participants, and enrol an equal number of men and women in order to support gender equality.

Project goals and benefits

With this project, Slow Motion Projects aims to reduce the impact of climate change in Ladakh, both from an environmental and economic perspective. We want to support the sustainable development of Ladakh and promote gender equality amongst the younger generation.







Developing ecotourism in the Himalayan Uttarakhand

"In Bangsil and the surrounding villages, farming is the major source of income for the local population, whose development is hindered by their low wages and education level."

The Bangsil Protected Area is a mountain region about 2000m high in the hills of northern Uttarakhand. The area offers stunning views of the nearby snow-capped Himalayan peaks, and is ideal for trekking and observation of wild animals such as leopards, langurs, birds, and rare butterflies. In Bangsil and the surrounding villages, farming is the major source of income for the local population, whose development is hindered by their low wages and education level. To help with a sustainable development of the Bangsil Protected Area, Arun Prasad, aged 25, created a few years ago his own NGO Devalsari.org. He created awareness campaigns and school programmes about environmental conservation for the local population. He also built an ecotourism guesthouse, where



he produces and sells organic honey; meals at the guesthouse are made with organic products from the local farmers. His NGO organises home stays with the villagers and hires them as trekking and wildlife guides for tourists. As most places in India, the Bangsil Protected Area faces growing garbage pollution issues. Villagers are not aware of the impact of garbage on the environment, animal and human health. Crucially, the villages are not equipped with garbage management systems.

Project goals and benefits

Slow Motion Projects will support the development of ecotourism in the Bangsil Protected Area. We plan to help Arun in developing a full awareness programme around garbage management in Bangsil and the surrounding villages, in order to make the area completely garbage-free and a hotspot for nature tourism.

Bangsil is located 2 hours away from Mussoorie, a domestic and international hotspot for tourists coming to enjoy nature and trek amidst gorgeous views of the Himalayas. We will support Arun and local villagers in receiving training about waste management across different sites of Uttarakhand, so they can develop their own waste management strategy in Bangsil, and make the ecotourism activities of Devalsari.org even more attractive for the tourists visiting nearby Mussoorie. This project will contribute to improving the living conditions of the villagers, all the while protecting the local flora and fauna.





2016 Financial report



FINANCIAL BUDGET FOR 2016 (in CHF)			
	Income	Expense (actual)	Expense (planned)
Opening balance	5′047.95		
Interests	1.35		
Cash donations	20′273.11		
In-kind donations	11′500		
Support: Bayasgalant		6′430	6′430
Support: Green Education Center*		15′516	18′718
Support: Nature Science Initiative**		0	9′705
Support: AshaNet (Pardarshita)		2′862.50	2′760
* includes in-kind donations ** Project contribution postponed to 2017			
TOTAL OF MOVEMENTS	31′774.46	24′808.50	37′613
CLOSING BALANCE		12′013.91	

DONATE *

Slow Motion Projects exists thanks to your continued support. By making a much needed donation today, you will join us in our work to empower underprivileged communities to exit poverty while preserving their environment.

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