



2017

ANNUAL REPORT



Slow Motion
Projects

Carrying on the fire

"And now? What is going to happen with Slow Motion Project? Is the organisation still active? What are your plans for the future?"

Those were the questions Slow Motion Projects has been frequently asked, as the Swiss team came back from Asia. And yes, for any nonprofit organisation, ensuring a continuity of its activities with little involvement on-site is a challenge. However, we never had a doubt about the answer to those questions. Yes, Slow Motion Projects still exists. Yes, our commitment towards supporting sustainable development through environmental education is still strong, and this is only possible thanks to the trust of our donors and the hard work and passion of our local partner NGOs.

In 2017, we celebrated the first year of the Slow Motion activities during a wonderful event in Zurich, with guest speakers from China and India. Fuelled by the generosity of our supporters and friends, we started two new projects: the construction of a second Green Education Centre in the city of Xishuangbanna, in the Chinese province of Yunnan and the organisation of the first sustainability winter school for Ladakhi students, in the Himalayas.

Your contribution to Slow Motion Projects does not only allow us to acquire the resources necessary to our actions, it is also a direct representation of your trust and our biggest source of motivation to continue our mission. Thank you for carrying on the fire with us!

Lisa Bounoure



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



2 new
projects

12 new
donors ♥



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.



Our mission and values

We support socially and environmentally sustainable development.

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 goals, and together with them we

design impactful projects. Our activities are ranging from nature camps for children and teenagers to the creation of environmental education centres and museums. We work in 4 different countries in Asia and source our funding from donations in Switzerland and Europe.

“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.”

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, including fundraising, project management, communication, and organisation of events is covered by our core members. Slow Motion Projects constantly reviews the impact of its actions and adapts its strategy accordingly. As of 2018, we will focus solely on education programs targeting children and young people offering practical knowledge of sustainable development and/or possibilities to develop sustainable businesses.



CHINA

A second Green Education Centre in the nature sanctuary of Xishuangbanna

After years of success with the Green Education Centre in Lijiang, our local partner Yunnan EcoNetwork is ready to replicate its model of environmental training for children and students in the tropical part of Yunnan.

Xishuangbanna is an autonomous prefecture in the extreme south of the Yunnan province in China. Jinghong, the main biggest city of the area, is crossed by the Mekong river, the world's largest inland fishery which provides 25% of the world's freshwater catch. Due to its tropical climate and remoteness, Xishuangbanna retains the highest biodiversity of the Yunnan province, which itself, harbours the largest variety of plant and animal life of China. Xishuangbanna is home to the last few Asian elephants in China. Unsustainable use of the natural resources are threatening the environment and the local populations in the region. Intensive fisheries and construction of dams to produce electricity deplete fish reserves. Deforestation for the production of rubber and tea deprive of a home Asian elephants and other species depending from tropical forests such as gibbons or green peacocks. This results in a dramatic decline of those populations.



"Xishuangbanna is home to the last few Asian elephants in China."



KEY NUMBERS AND FACTS

800 m² of property to welcome

40 students per camp

4 class rooms

Jobs created for 50 families



The building of the new Green Education Centre in Xishuangbanna will be able to host up to 40 students per nature boot camp.

To raise awareness about the environmental issues in the region of Xishuangbanna and allow for its sustainable development, Slow Motion Projects has partnered again with the Chinese NGO Yunnan EcoNetwork. Yunnan EcoNetwork has 10 years in hosting groups of school children and university students coming from the whole China to attend nature camps at the Green

THE NEW CENTRE WILL DRIVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN XISHUANGBANNA

Education Centre in the northern Yunnan region of Lijiang. The Centre is also hosting a museum dedicated to nature and sustainability, which participates in a more ecological development of this highly touristy region through an increased awareness of its visitors. Since 2016, Yunnan EcoNetwork is receiving support from SMP to help increasing the number of visitors to its museum and the number of groups of students enrolling in the camps. The success of our collaboration with Yunnan EcoNetwork is very clear: within the first year of support, the Green

Education Centre museum has received three time more visits and a significant increase of the groups enrolling on the camps was observed.

Thrilled from the success in Lijiang, Yunnan EcoNetwork and Slow Motion Projects have now started to scale up their collaboration. A new Green Education Centre dedicated to nature, wildlife and local sustainable development is currently getting created in Xishuangbanna. The centre is a replicate of the Lijiang's Green Education Centre. It has the capacity to host 40 school children or students and provide them environmental sciences classes with a special focus on wildlife and conservation in Yunnan.

The centre will put the emphasis on interactive education about the Xishuangbanna ecosystems through guided tours of the nearby nature reserve. During the training, students will also complete practical activities within local communities such as education to garbage management, installation of solar lights and ovens or training about production and use of biogas.

Local villagers will be hired by the project to help managing the logistics during the camps such as the preparation of meals. They will also host the students for the nights,, which will ensure them a source of income and allow for a sustainable development of the region.

A 800m2 house has been granted to Yunnan EcoNetwork by the city of Xishuangbanna. With the support of SMP, renovations of the building could start in 2018 and will be completed before the end of the year. As of early 2019, the first groups of students will be able to attend nature camps in the new Green Education Centre.



INDIA

The first sustainability winter school of Ladakh

The two-week long boot camp on sustainable tourism ended up on January 5th. A life-changing experience for its 60 participants and a sign sent from the Himalayan valley: the youth of Ladakh will not let their region disappearing.

In the winter months, temperatures in Ladakh are dipping well below freezing point, slowing down all activities in the region. School are closing for several months and Ladakhi students are given a long study break.

The young Ladakhis are children of the Himalayas, but the high mountain ranges did not protect them from the harmful effects of globalisation. In winter, when they are out of school and left without much to do outside, many of them will get together and spend the few Rupies in their pockets in alcohol.

“Tourism plays a pivotal role in the sustainable development of Ladakh.”

In the meantime, climate change is silently consuming Ladakh. The Ladakh plateau, more than 3000m high, is a cold desert. The main source of water for people living there comes from mountain glaciers. Because of climate change, glaciers in Ladakh are retreating. Water resources are getting too scarce for farmers and the whole valley is now at risk of slowly disappearing.

A few year ago, Mingyur Ringzen, a 25 years-old Ladakhi created the organisation “Youth Association of Gya”. Their mission is to help young Ladakhis to protect their region while allowing it to resist the economical

consequences of climate change. While Ladakh is rather inhospitable in winter, the region turns into a hot spot for tourists in the summer. Sustainable tourism plays a pivotal role in the sustainable development of Ladakh.

From December 22nd to January 5th, The Youth Association of Gya organised the first sustainability winter school of Ladakh. The goal of this programme was to keep young Ladakhis away from streets and alcoholic beverages during their school break and teach them how to develop sustainable tourism in the region. And guess what? It was a huge success.

THE DAILY PROGRAM: LEARN, PLAY, DESIGN & PRESENT

More than 60 young men and women aged from 14 to 18 years old attended the school. Here is an overview of their daily routine:

Each day started with the same process: an introspection dedicated to setting personal goals and planning the daily programme. To continue, nothing better than opening the mind through physical practice. If Buddhism is the main religion of Ladakh, ice hockey, especially for



young people comes certainly second. The school ice rink was built and maintained by the students themselves. After a copious breakfast, the students received English classes in order to help them communicating with tourists visiting Ladakh in the summer. Guest speakers were also invited to the school to come and talk about relevant topics such as wildlife and wildlife spotting activities in Ladakh, the modern views Buddhism in the 21st century, glaciology and climate change. Stanzin Dorjai, an award-winning Indian documentary filmmaker from Ladakh even came to give a motivational speech to the students.

After lunch, afternoons were dedicated to practical activities where students learned about knitting, painting and how to produce handicraft out of recycled wastes. The students

Teacher showing students how to knit woollen clothes.



worked in teams, and out of those young creative minds came incredible products such as: woollen socks, hats, bags, chess boards, picture frames, pillows, tea trays, and many more.

The afternoon time was also used for English conversation activities and during dinner, five students had to present in front of the others different topics in order to gain confidence with pitching ideas and speaking in public. After dinner, students were given the opportunity to debate



Students presenting during the closing ceremony.

about chosen topics, but also play music, sing songs and last but not least: practice for the theatre play scheduled for the final day of the school programme.

"In this camp I learnt many things like ice hockey, English Grammar, introspection. I liked all the staff and food very much. The camp should be at least one month. Thank you for all the support and care."

Skarma Rinchen, student.

During the closing ceremony, the students presented the eco-tourism projects they prepared during the two weeks of the camp to their teachers and guests. They also interpreted songs and played live music for the audience. The event was honoured by the presence of the minister of education of Ladakh. In the evening, the theatre play was presented in the village community hall in front of a large and enthusiastic audience. The money raised thanks to the play will be used to finance the next winter school, in 2018. Parents and villagers were extremely thankful to the Youth Association of Gya for giving the students the chance to learn valuable skills, which will benefit the whole community and environment of Ladakh.



Picture frames out of recycled carton food packages.



60 young students attended the sustainability winter school.



INDIA

The DO-NO Trash movement is growing in Uttarakhand!

From organising plastic-free events to engaging local authorities to take actions, the plastic-free community is growing in Dehradun and it will not stop its war against plastic.

Plastic is everywhere in our lives: from toothbrushes to kids' toys or take-away food and drinks. This would not necessarily be a big problem if those plastics had a long lifetime or would be systematically recycled. In a country with 1.3 billion people, however, plastic is a huge environmental concern. People are using very big amounts of single-use plastics. Worse, recycling infrastructures or even efficient disposal installations are lacking. The consequence is visible in the streets, in the fields where cows are grazing or even in pristine outdoor spots: plastic garbage has become one of India's number one environmental and public health problems.

In 2017, the topic of plastic invaded the media. Who has not seen pictures of seagulls nesting on plastic garbage

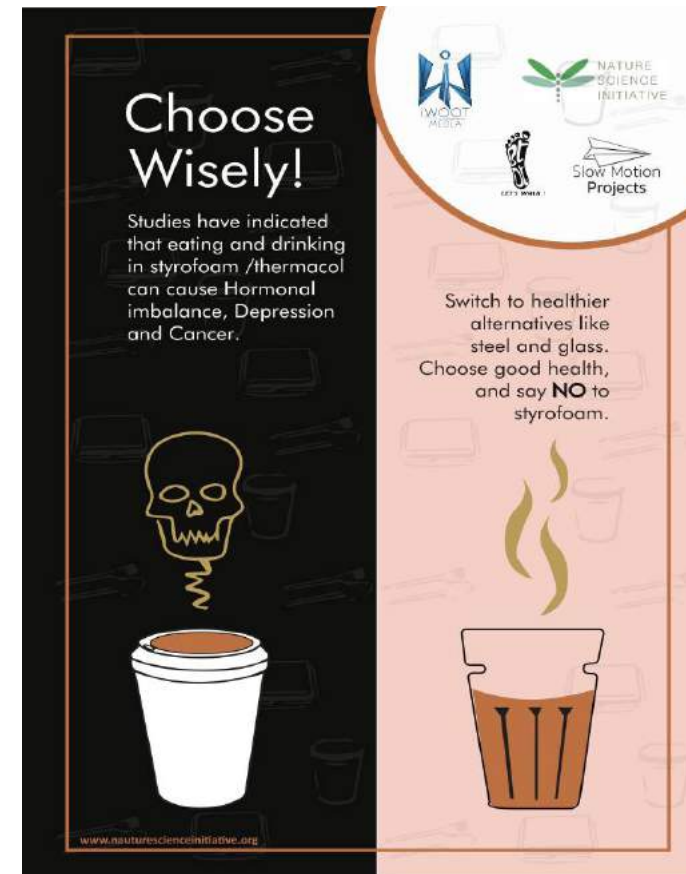
or turtles swimming among plastic bags? In India as well, plastics finally jumped from the streets into the media to the point that the Indian government even banned the use of styrofoam.

To strengthen this most needed awakening to the problem of plastic pollution, Slow Motion Projects supported the organisation Nature Science Initiative in their social media communication actions. And there, we realised one of the beauties about India: yes, when a problem happens it becomes quickly huge,

amplified by the order of magnitude of the population size. But luckily, the same applies to solutions.

Within a year, the NSI social media campaigns against plastics have now mobilised more than 100'000 people

"We believe that every individual and every tiny action counts."



in Dehradun and villages around. The community started to organise plastic-free events to inform the population, figures of the plastic-free group have been invited to give talks every week and far-reaching decisions have been made within local institutions to eliminate plastic disposables. Within a year of launching the DO-NO-Trash movement, several tons of plastic waste have been avoided, with a broader population starting to use for instance reusable

**MORE THAN 100'000
PEOPLE MOBILISED**

cloth bags for shopping - a huge step for a country such as India where education, and in particular environmental education is still deficient and not accessible to the majority. In the coming months, Slow Motion Projects will support NSI in pushing further its actions over social media as well as conducting more workshops to encourage people reducing plastic usage and recycling.

"The Do- No Trash philosophy

Do-No Trash is not just a name, it's a philosophy of life. Wherein we take ownership of our waste and not see it as trash but as a resource .

For instance, kitchen or wet waste if turned into compost is black gold (as we like to call it).

Our plastic waste too if given to kabaddis or the right authorities supports an economy in itself and helps the most neglected lot of our society.

Also, the most obvious one whenever we refuse to use plastic disposables like bottles, cups etc we not only save the environment but also give our coming generations a chance for a better future. And it all starts with simple choices like carrying your own water bottle, bringing your own grocery bag and even switching to a fountain pen.

It's about empowering ourselves and understanding that there is only one Earth to live and there is no getting "away" from that. And the solution to our problems is so very simple "Do- No Trash".

In conclusion

Some changes are immediate and some take time. But we believe that every individual and every tiny action counts. Make yours count today. Be a Do-No Trasher."



Soumya Prasad and 65 others

50 Comments 1 Share

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Comment

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The Slow Motion Community is growing!

To celebrate the success of its first completed actions, Slow Motion Projects invited its supporters and friends to meet those who are carrying over our actions on the

“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.”

ground. The evening was a great occasion for everyone to travel across Asia, learn how we achieve sustainable development there and leave with a positive message: solutions to prevent climate change and reduce poverty exist.

During our first summer event in June 2017, the Slow Motion Projects supporters and friends met our local project leads.



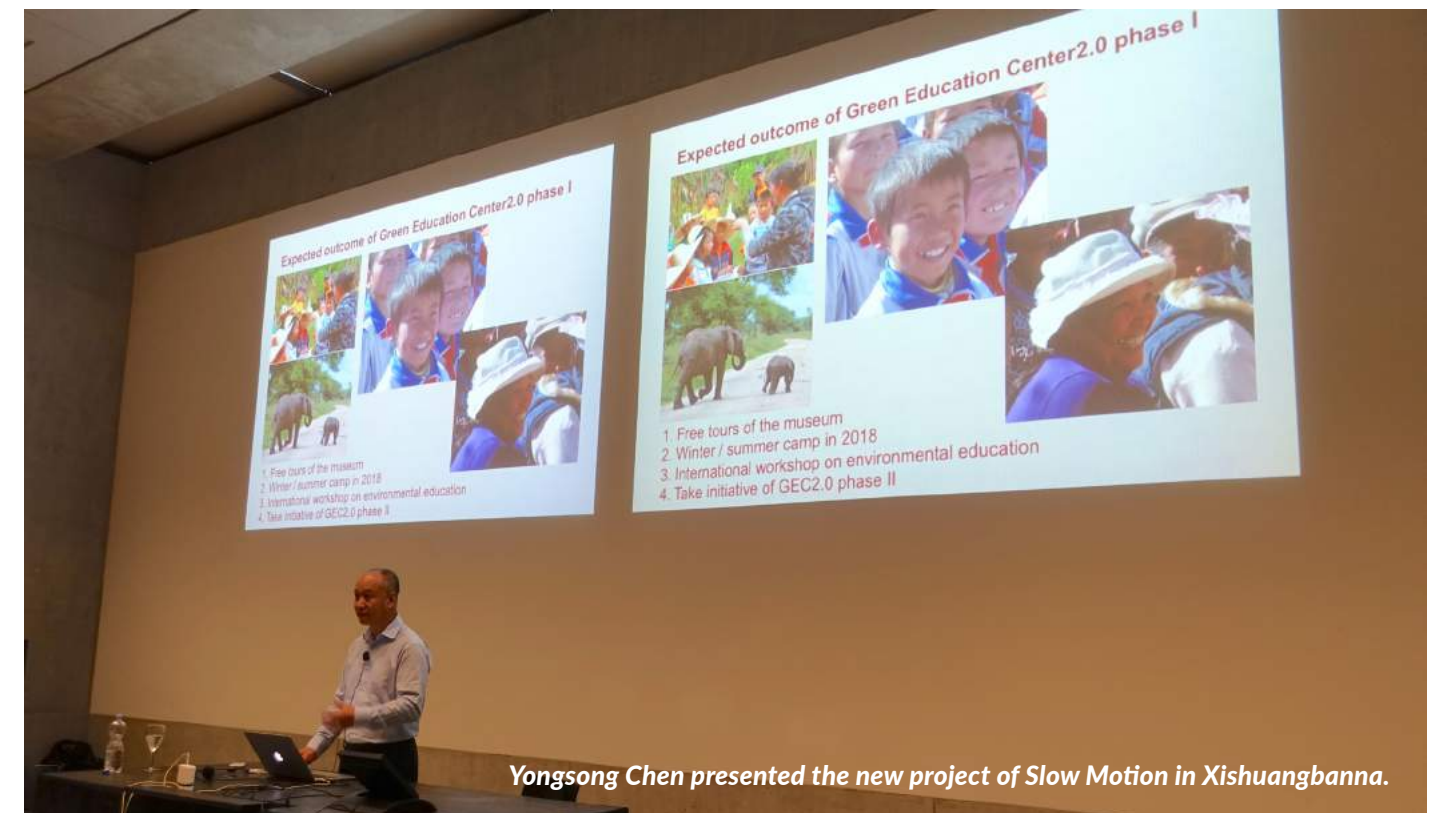


Christine Jäggi talking about life of slum children in Ulan Baatar, Mongolia.

With 27 degrees outside and a radiant sunset, July 11th 2017 was definitely not a day to spend the evening in a conference room. However, more than 50 guests attended the first Slow Motion Projects community meet-up, generously hosted by our partner the Hochschule für Wirtschaft Zürich. During the event, our guest speakers gave the audience insights about the countries we are active in: Mongolia, China, Bhutan and India. They talked about the local environmental and social issues and how Slow Motion Projects addresses them through the co-creation and development of projects in collaboration with local partner organisations. Christine Jäggi, founder of Bayasgalant, Kinderhilfe Mongolei portrayed the life of Ulan Baatar slum children hosted by the day care centre run by the NGO. On his way to the UN Climate summit in Frankfurt, Yonsong Chen, founder of Yunnan EcoNetwork visited Slow



The wonderful Aryunzul enchanted the audience interpreting a traditional Mongolian song.



Yongsong Chen presented the new project of Slow Motion in Xishuangbanna.

Motion Projects and presented the new Education Centre in Xishuangbanna to a curious audience. Surya Balasubramanian gave the last presentation of the evening showing our guests the beauties of Ladakh and talking about the pressing water crisis and potential solutions to alleviate it.

Traditional songs from Mongolia were interpreted by our guest artists between the talks and tasty Asian dishes were offered to the guests at the end of the event. We cannot wait to meet again with our supporters for a new event.



Speakers and guests learned from each other and enjoyed home-made Asian food during a casual apero-riche.



SLOW MOTION 2.0

Setting our focus on applied educational programs for the youth

Our mission has not changed

When Slow Motion Projects started, we defined a clear mission and area of activity: identify and support the most promising initiatives allowing for the sustainable development of specific regions in Asia - initiatives built by and benefiting directly the local communities of those regions. Today, this mission is not only more than ever relevant in the current zeitgeist, but we also proved our capacity to achieve it:

- the climate crisis hasn't faded away. 2018 holds the record of the hottest months in a row ever recorded in history in a number of places in the world.
- one third of the world's population still does not have access to life essentials (water, shelter, education)
- within our first 3 years of existence, we were able to partner and support local organisations, creating with them and completing sustainable development projects in 5 different regions in Mongolia, China, and India.



Identifying the most impactful form of project: environmental education programs

Although our mission is very focused, we decided at first to keep the panel of our possible actions rather large in order to test which type of projects would be the most successful to achieve our goals. But how do we define success? For a smaller NGO such as Slow Motion Projects which commits to using 100% of its donated funds to finance projects, each penny counts. Therefore, for each project we develop, we carefully assess the balance between the financial and coordination efforts we invest in a project and its outcomes in terms of impact.

Within the large spectrum of projects we ran (nature excursions for street children, construction of an environmental exhibition in a museum, social media campaigns against garbage pollution, among others), environmental education programs offered to the youth appeared to be optimal.

Why they are optimal and how this directly translates into primary selection criteria for funding seekers

- They allow to reach entire groups and they are easy to scale up by increasing the numbers of students within one programme and/or cloning the programme in a new location
- Minimal financial investment is needed. With a few thousand Swiss francs, the project coordination, room, board and study material for the students, logistics costs (such as: transport of students to location) and even a possible compensation for speakers and teachers can be covered.
- The youth is a highly receptive target group which plays today a key role for the future of our planet and our society.

Additional criteria for selection: applied knowledge and a committed leader

Anchoring the educational programs to the local environmental and social challenges is crucial. To achieve this, Slow Motion Project will only finance projects not only raising awareness of the youth to those challenges but also providing them with practical knowledge on environmentally sound activities generating income such as eco-tourism, organic agriculture, waste valorisation, or renewable energy production.

We also observed how having a local project leader on board, experienced with the local environment and social context and well-connected within the region is crucial to allow for a smooth planning and roll-out of the education programs. In addition to coordinating the project on site and reporting regularly and transparently about its outcomes, the project lead also provides an inspiring model for the student and act as a local ambassador of the projects towards our supporters.

Winter camp in Ladakh - winter 2018-2019

One of the first applications of the new strategy is already planned for the coming winter. After a first edition of the Sustainability Winter School in Ladakh, Slow Motion Projects will repeat this programme, this time during 2 months and for up to 100 students (you can read the project report for 2017 on page 9-11).

Slow Motion Projects is counting on your support to show us that you are still with us, and make this project possible!

2017 financial report



	Income	Expense
Opening balance	12'013.91	
Interests	0.75	
Cash donations	7'219.61	
Support: Youth Association Gya		2'240.00
Support: Green Education Center		7'350.00
Support: Nature Science Initiative		3'200.00
Support: Pardarshita (follow-up project 2016)		97.73
Banking fees (covered by the SMP team)		77.73
TOTAL OF MOVEMENTS	7'220.36	12'965.46
CLOSING BALANCE		6'268.81

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.

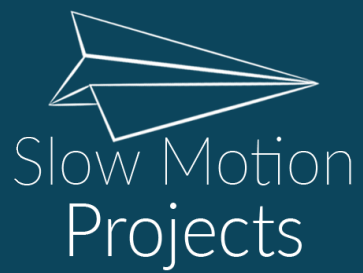
Donate to:

Slow Motion Projects
Bank: Credit Suisse
IBAN: CH25 0483 5176 2151 0100 0
BIC/SWIFT: CRESCHZZ80A

Or at
slowmotionprojects.org/take-action



*Support Slow Motion Projects
to help the young generation
in shaping a fairer future.*



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