



2018

ANNUAL REPORT



Slow Motion
Projects

Seeding a better future for all

An idea is like a flower: the gardener plants a seed, but the bloom comes through the energy that the plant receives from its environment. It needs solid roots and a radiant source of light. As we look back on almost four years of existence, it dawns on us that Slow Motion Projects is the gardener. We plant a seed, a seed of hope and harmony between our planet and its people. The diversity of our local ambassadors, the energy of the children, and their relentless optimism make up the fertile soil in which roots can grow. And of course, you all provide the necessary energy for the petals to unfold. You are the light that shines on Slow Motion Projects.

2018 has been a year of consolidation, from the construction of an extended base of educational activities at the Mannuo Green Museum to the perpetuation of the Sustainability Winter Camp in Ladakh (read on to know more!). The hard work and dedication of the local teams made these achievements possible, and we are immensely thankful to them. It is one thing to strategise and fundraise, it is another thing entirely to toil in the mud to build a museum, or teach with frozen fingers in the Himalayan winter. To the tireless hands and legs that give Slow Motion Projects its roots, we say thank you.

Beyond the metaphor, you understand just as well as we do now, four years in, that the value of our actions is in the collaboration of wonderful souls from near and far, from those who provide the necessary funds to those who implement the actions on the ground. It is now becoming ever clearer that this tight collaboration is the very identity of Slow Motion Projects: we are not enabling individual actions, but rather building, slowly, a network of people and an ecosystem of ideas. In turn, it is in that soil that new flowers will grow. And we think it is our key to a better, more sustainable future. Through your trust and your support, you make all this possible.

With love,
Nicolas





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

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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 range from nature camps for children and teenagers to the creation of environmental education centres and museums. We work in multiple Asian countries, and source our funding from donations in Switzerland and Europe.

We commit to using the complete amount of the individual donations we receive to develop our projects. The overhead costs of the operations of Slow Motion Projects, 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. Starting in 2018, we decided to mainly focus on education programmes for children and young adults offering practical knowledge of sustainable development and/or possibilities to develop sustainable businesses.



The Mannuo Green Centre in southern China is now open!

Chinese students can now discover and learn how to protect the wonders of the rainforests and Asian elephants, with the involvement of the local community.

The Mannuo Green Education Centre is located in the Xishuangbanna prefecture, in the south-western Chinese Province of Yunnan, in the Mekong Basin. This tropical region is the largest producer of rubber and world-famous Pu'er tea. The Mekong River allows tourism and trade with the neighbouring countries Laos, Thailand and Vietnam to grow very fast.

As a consequence, Xishuangbanna suffers from unsustainable clearing of the rainforest and uncontrolled construction of dams on the Mekong. Landscapes are transformed and the local wildlife, in particular Asian elephants, are losing their habitat.

The Mannuo Green Education Centre offers nature education programmes for children and teenagers and university students. This centre replicates the model of the Lijiang Green Education Centre previously supported by Slow Motion Projects.

In 2018, Slow Motion Project supported the renovation of the building hosting the Green Education Centre programmes. The renovation work was completed by the end of June.

Between August and December 2018, the local staff prepared and installed the education material for the museum inside the Centre.

By the end of 2018, the museum exhibition hall, as well as facilities to teach students, were ready. The Centre partnered with the Xishuangbanna National Rainforest





Reserve Bureau, which donated over twenty bird and mammal specimens for the museum.

The nature education programmes provided at the centre typically run for one to two weeks. They focus on:

- Human and wildlife conflicts, in particular imposed to the Asian elephant
- How to balance rainforest ecological system conservation and community development
- How to provide local communities revenue through alternative livelihood (alternative technologies for agriculture, production of renewable energy - solar and biogas, sustainable tourism services)

In December 2018, 80 students from the Haidan International School in Beijing visited the Centre and museum for its official inauguration.

Room and board were provided to students by families from the neighbouring Mannuo village. People living in this village belong to the Dai ethnic group with its unique dialect and cultural traditions. In addition to allowing a nature-compatible development of the region, involving local communities in the project will preserve the unique culture of this ethnic group.

The project also benefited from a sponsoring form the Guangdong Rural Women Development Foundation, which trained women from the Mannuo village to become nature guides and hosts for the students but also in the future for the tourists in the region.

In 2019, Slow Motion Projects wants to support more nature education camps for Chinese students at the Mannuo Green Education Centre, so they learn about local environmental issues and are empowered to build sustainable solutions.

The camps will be offered to Chinese students who typically cannot afford to pay for tuition and accommodation costs, such as underprivileged teenagers or young adults from the local communities.





An active and educational winter break for Ladakhi students

Following the success of the first sustainability winter camp organised in the winter of 2017, the Youth Association of Gya-Meru (YAG) and Slow Motion Projects decided to get back at it and strengthen this concept over the 2018 winter break.

Where else than Ladakh could ideas for sustainable behaviours and creative resource use be more aptly applied? Owing to changing climatic conditions and the ever-increasing impact of mass tourism, the life of local people is affected year in, year out, and their very future is at risk. It is not for lack of ingenuity though: from fixing bikes with shoelaces to building eco-friendly and economical houses from rammed earth, or fighting climate change with artificial glaciers, the Ladakhis consistently prove amazingly resourceful... Just as you would expect from people who have resisted invasion after invasion for over a thousand years. It is now time for them, especially the young generation, to face the most pernicious of all threats: environmental degradation and worsening drought on a massive scale, the lasting embodiment of an insidious enemy who is nowhere to be seen and yet threatens the survival of the entire plateau.

It is for the purpose of empowering the youth in come up with sustainable solutions to environmental challenges that YAG was created in 2014. It now counts 60 members,



and coordinates year after year collective actions such as awareness campaigns during World Environment Day, waste collection initiatives, or information events for local villagers. SMP and YAG collaborated this year again to host 45 students and 15 staff during 3 weeks over the Christmas period, with one common goal: unleash the creativity of the new generation of Ladakhis in coming up with solutions for sustainable development in the Himalayas.

Students came from the neighbouring villages of Gya, Meru, Upshi, Kungyum, and Yerath, and stayed in the Gya high school (4200m high), unused during the winter break. Despite the freezing temperatures, their hearts remained warm and their spirits high as they went through their daily programme: starting with introspection and ice hockey, then moving on to personal development and English classes, community activities, guest lectures from local experts on the history and culture of Ladakh, and of course applied project work in focus groups on the following topics: Transportation, Culture, Communication, Lifestyle, and Education. Led by the YAG staff and our Bhutanese volunteer Bishnu, the students were encouraged to apply design thinking concepts to create innovative solutions to concrete problems affecting Ladakh, such as increasing traffic, power outages, water scarcity, or poor network connectivity. Their ideas were prototyped using small paper models and showcased at the closing ceremony. Evening activities included group discussions and debates, as well as student-led presentations on current local and international affairs, sparking collective interest and honing



communication skills.

The sustainability winter camp ended this year again with a closing ceremony in which the students performed traditional Ladakhi dances and songs, and showed a theatre play to collect donations in view of financing the following camp. They also exhibited the output of their work in front of local villagers and government representatives, including Gyal P. Wangyal, Deputy Chairman of the Leh district, who congratulated the students and staff on their performance and creativity, and assured that such initiatives will receive further government support in the future. We couldn't be happier with the shape that this project is taking in its second year only, and we're excited to further refine the concept in the 2019 winter camp, as well as extend it to different places.





2018 financial report



	Income	Expenses
Opening balance	CHF6,268.81	
Interests	CHF0.00	
Donations	CHF1,657.97	
Support: Youth Association Gya		CHF2,130.00
Banking fees (covered by the SMP team)		CHF94.80
TOTAL OF MOVEMENTS	CHF1,657.97	CHF2,224.80
CLOSING BALANCE		CHF5,701.98

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





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to help the young generation
in shaping a fairer future.*



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