### FOUNDATION AUDEMARS PIGUET FOR TREES





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### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN AND DIRECTOR

A woman fishing in a small boat in Madagasca

**2023 was a pivotal year for the Audemars Piguet Foundation.** After operating for over 30 years and supporting 186 projects around the world, we decided to initiate an in-depth examination of our ambitions for the future. This work reflected the new philanthropic vision that Audemars Piguet concretised in 2022 with the creation of a second Foundation.

The Audemars Piguet Foundation was renamed the Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees in order to consolidate its mission of promoting the conservation and restoration of forest ecosystems. However, some changes have been made, particularly with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda to which it intends to contribute alongside those of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). As a result, additional themes, such as forest fires, have been added to its areas of activity. A new, more targeted geographical overview of its initiatives has also been established. The Foundation is now primarily focusing on regions where it has key partners whose projects have enabled lasting initiatives coordinated by local communities to be implemented. It is therefore placing particular emphasis on Switzerland and the UK, as well as East, West and Central Africa. Its new focus also encompasses regions that are home to key biodiversity areas and sites of significant natural and cultural diversity, as well as those affected by forest fires.

The second institution, christened the Audemars Piguet Foundation for Common Good, focuses on social equity and education. Its mission echoes the human talent and expertise that have been at the heart of Audemars Piguet since 1875. It was created in response

to the Group's desire to strengthen its commitment to communities in Switzerland and around the world. It underlines the premise that involving local stakeholders is essential to ensuring the longevity of beneficial practices and, consequently, the empowerment of communities.

The Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees has also revised the way in which it allocates its donations. As it no longer accepts unsolicited applications, it now invites organisations eligible for support to submit a request directly. By working with a limited number of transregional partners that are firmly established in the countries where it wishes to operate, the Foundation ensures that it can reach those who are implicated on the ground. This, in turn, strengthens the community-led approach that has always been at the heart of its concerns by giving indigenous populations and invisible stakeholders additional means to become agents of change. Working with a selection of solid partners also enables it to commit to bold projects while, at the same time, limiting the risks inherent to them. This new model has the added advantage of facilitating the sharing of best practices among peers. To this end, the Foundation decided to set up an organisational development hub in 2023. The aim is to provide its partners with custom-designed networks of experts to give them the resources they need to pursue their activities well beyond the Foundation's financial support.

Jasmine Audemars Chairwoman Susan Simmons Lagreau Director

## VISION

The Audemars Piguet Foundations are working towards a sustainable world in which every individual can reach their full potential as part of resilient and autonomous communities.

# MISSION

The aim of the Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees is to contribute to the conservation of forests around the world by protecting the environment and raising awareness among young people.

It supports initiatives that champion sustainable practices and behaviour to strengthen the resilience of communities and natural environments.

# VALUES

Three values guide the initiatives of the Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees:

**Audacity:** being serious without taking ourselves too seriously paves the way for innovative approaches and making a difference.

**Sustainability:** generating tangible, long-term positive impacts within the ecological limits of our planet, without compromising on the well-being of future generations.

**Humanism:** empowering every individual to make extraordinary things happen in accordance with their own ambitions.



### CHALLENGES IN 2023

Over the last three decades, over 420 million hectares of forest have disappeared due to deforestation. According to the Global Land Analysis and Discovery (GLAD) laboratory in the Department of Geographical Sciences at the University of Maryland, "total tropical primary forest loss in 2023 totalled 3.7 million hectares, the equivalent of losing almost 10 football (soccer) fields of forest per minute. While this represents a 9% decrease from 2022, the rate in 2023 was nearly identical to that of 2019 and 2021. All this forest loss produced 2.4 gigatonnes (Gt) of carbon dioxide emissions in 2023, equivalent to almost half of the annual fossil fuel emissions of the United States" (World Resources Institute, WRI).

Despite the essential role they play in regulating the climate and biodiversity, and for the more than 1.6 billion people who depend on them directly for their survival (UN Climate Change, UNFCCC), forests continue to disappear.

From top to bottom: member of a local community in Cambodia; Risoud forest in the Vallée de Joux, Switzerland; reforesting a mangrove in Senegal. This phenomenon is exacerbated by forest fires caused, in particular, by climate change, which is resulting in hotter and drier conditions that make forests more fragile. They are thus becoming more vulnerable to fires, which are increasing in duration, frequency and intensity. According to the World Resources Institute, 2023 saw an upsurge in fires with devastating consequences. To address these issues, the Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees is taking action in three key areas by placing local stakeholders at the heart of its initiatives to foster the creation of virtuous circles by and for communities.

### Preserving and restoring forest ecosystems

### Raising awareness of environmental issues among young people

### Preserving ancestral knowledge related to nature



Conserving and restoring forests, fighting deforestation and promoting the sustainable management of natural resources all help to preserve biodiversity and strengthen the resilience of communities and natural environments.

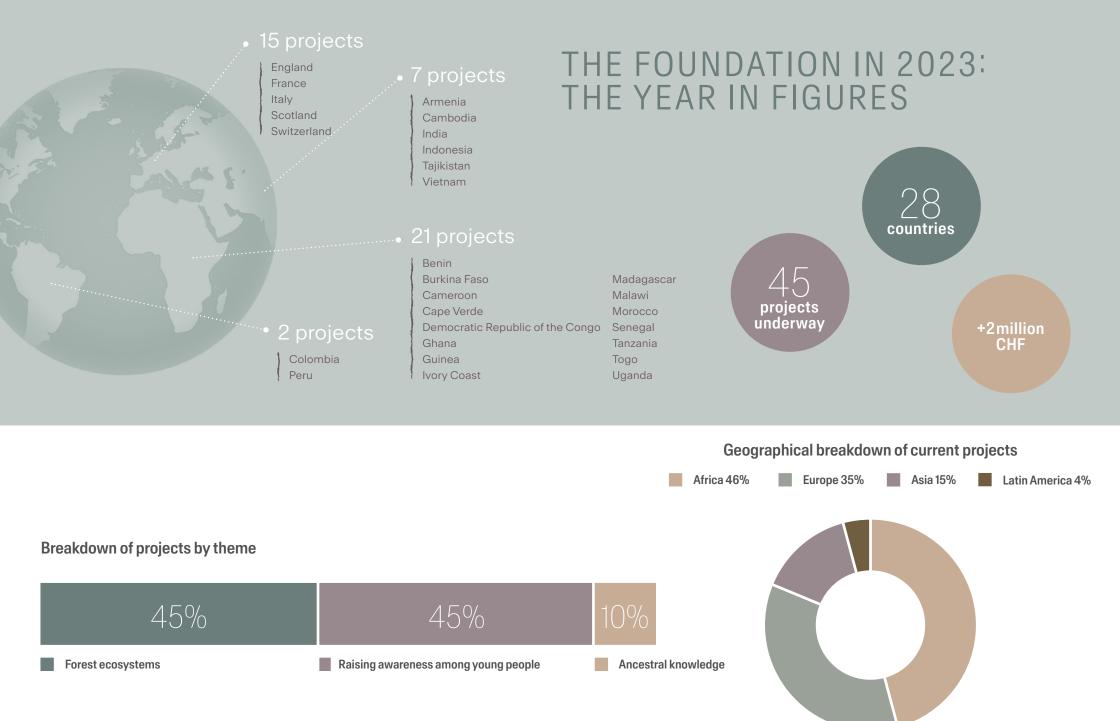


Showcasing natural sites and environments, developing educational tools and implementing outdoor learning modules all help to enhance knowledge, interest and respect for nature, while promoting sustainable practices and behaviour.



Perpetuating ancestral knowledge about the sustainable use of natural resources helps to preserve biodiversity and strengthen the resilience of communities and natural environments.







### PROJECTS UNDERWAY IN 2023

### AFRICA

According to the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation), Africa has the highest net loss of forest area, with a net annual rate of 3.9 million hectares of forest loss between 2010 and 2020. The rate of net forest loss has increased in Africa over the last three decades, since 1990. The conversion of forest land to agricultural land for subsistence or commercial purposes is by far the most common cause of deforestation in Africa.

Most of the projects funded in Africa in 2023 focused on two of the Foundation's three areas of activity, namely conserving and restoring forest ecosystems and raising awareness of environmental issues among young people. Interweaving these two themes becomes all the more relevant in the context of the continent's rapidly growing population, which is largely dependent on agriculture and the services provided by nature.

# BENIN, GHANA & IVORY COAST





West African piassava palm, Benin.

#### Organisation: Centre Régional de Recherche et d'Éducation pour le Développement Intégré (CREDI-ONG) – 2023-2026

In Benin, the Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees agreed a three-year project in 2023 to build the resilience of communities settled in the Sitatunga Valley and help them adapt to climate change. Led by CREDI-ONG, this initiative has enabled a management structure to be set up for the Sitatunga Valley Community Nature Park over the past year. The resources harnessed have made it possible to create consultation frameworks to improve the quality of governance, map biodiversity hotspots, identify bio-indicator species, strengthen ecological monitoring and raise public awareness about environmental protection.

#### Organisation: Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques de la Ville de Genève (CJBG) – 2020-2023

Benin also saw the continuation of the cross-disciplinary "Multipalms" project – which is also being carried out in the Ivory Coast and Ghana. Using knowledge of the extraction channels for three groups of useful forest palms (raffia, rattan and doum palms), the aim of Multipalms is to propose sustainable solutions for the active conservation of these vulnerable species and their natural habitats. **Examples of the CJBG's achievements in 2023:** building infrastructure for palm seedling experimentation and production; locating palm populations and identifying fragile species; collecting ethnobotanical information; leading germination and transplantation trials; training and expanding the scientific network; enriching the botanical and ethnobotanical collections catalogued in local and CJBG herbariums; raising awareness and coordinating environmental education initiatives.



# **BURKINA FASO**





Field work in a mangrove in Cameroon.

#### Organisation: Action Lutte Contre la Pauvreté (ALCP) – 2022-2025

Launched in 2022, the "Agro-ecological restoration and agroforestry in the green belt of the city of Ouagadougou" initiative aims to encourage the sustainable management of natural resources to foster the socioeconomic development of women and young people in the peri-urban areas of the capital of Burkina Faso. ALCP aims to strengthen the protection and development of the region's environmental heritage by preserving its integrity and improving local people's economic prospects.

**Examples of ALCP's achievements in 2023:** preparing 2 hectares of land for market garden production; planting 6,000 trees; implementing activities to raise awareness and disseminate best practices in agro-ecology and agroforestry; coordinating reforestation operations.

### CAMEROON



In Cameroon, the Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees continued to support two projects in 2023.

### Organisation: Appui aux Initiatives de Développement (AIDE) – 2022-2024

The aim of this project is to strengthen biodiversity conservation efforts and stem the degradation of mangrove ecosystems in the Douala-Edéa National Park. It takes the realities of the surrounding communities into account, working to ensure the sustainability of their livelihoods.

**Examples of AIDE's achievements in 2023:** drawing up an inventory of the mangroves; implementing environmental education and awareness-raising activities in six villages; completing an organisational diagnosis of community associations; creating a capacity-building plan for farmers' organisations next to the mangroves; providing four training sessions on the green economy; establishing a nursery with 1,000 seedlings.

### Organisation: Alternatives Durables pour le Développement (ADD) – 2022-2023

This project concerns a forest zone with a bimodal rainfall pattern in the Central Cameroon region, which is subject to bush fires and human pressure. These phenomena are contributing to the collapse of the natural environment and the degradation of the local communities' cultural heritage. Through an initiative entitled "Awareness raising and environmental education for young people in vocational schools and communities", the ADD organisation has contributed to the participative and sustainable management of the environment and forests. Its work to raise awareness has focused, in particular, on the issues related to restoring degraded forest landscapes using ancestral knowledge.

**Examples of ADD's achievements in 2023:** organising two awarenessraising campaigns and around twenty themed educational workshops (ancestral knowledge, domestication of valuable species, creation of artistic objects, fertilisation techniques, etc.); revitalising six school eco-clubs; setting up a forest nursery.

#### Organisation: Associação Projecto Vitó - 2022-2025

Fogo is one of the first two biosphere reserves in Cape Verde to be designated by UNESCO (2020). However, to date, few measures have been taken to convert this classification into tangible action. Through the "Time for conservation of endemic threatened flora in Cape Verde's islands" project, the Projecto Vitó organisation is supporting the implementation and management of the Fogo reserve in collaboration with the authorities.

Six islands in the archipelago fall within the project's scope: Santo Antão, São Vicente, São Nicolau, Santiago, Fogo and Brava. The project focuses on two of the endemic tree species featured on the IUCN's (International Union for Conservation of Nature) red list: *Dracaena draco* and *Sideroxylon marginatum*. In addition, over 50 plant species endemic to Cape Verde will benefit from protection measures.

The Foundation conducted a field visit in November 2023 to assess the project's initial results, gain a better understanding of the biodiversity issues facing the organisation and consider the ways in which it could provide targeted support, particularly in terms of capacity-building within its teams.

**Examples of Projecto Vitó's achievements in 2023:** completing an inventory of all *D. draco* and *S. marginatum* populations; rehabilitating 15 hectares of degraded land in Fogo Nature Park and 10 hectares on Brava Island; creating management tools for the Fogo reserve; introducing capacity-building measures for the organisation's technical team and project stakeholders; raising awareness and leading communication initiatives in schools and communities; producing communication materials about the species endemic to Cape Verde.

# CAPE VERDE





# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)



#### Organisation: Mbou-Mon-Tour (MMT) – 2022-2024

In Mai-Ndombe province, the Mbou-Mon-Tour (MMT) organisation is running a programme to protect biodiversity and consolidate the socioeconomic development of local communities. The "Support for sustainable development through the conservation and enhancement of local biodiversity" project has three components: raising awareness, creating Local Community Forests (LCFs) and boosting eco-tourism activities. In particular, MMT is working with local communities to preserve the forest habitat of bonobos. Securing habitats and establishing local forest governance will not only preserve biodiversity, but also allow communities to become more self-sufficient and resilient. The Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees supported four projects in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in 2023.

#### Organisation: Actions Communautaires pour la Protection de l'Environnement (ACPE) – 2022-2025

In 2022, the NGO ACPE launched a pilot programme entitled "Supporting the reconstitution of forest cover through agro-ecological practices". The first goal is to teach 100 households in the village of Mpangala (Kongo Central province) how to plant melliferous flowers and fruit trees over 150 hectares in order to restore forest cover. The project also aims to promote the diversification of local communities' sources of income in order to reduce the pressure on forest ecosystems.

#### Organisation: Itombwe Génération pour l'Humanité (IGH) – 2020-2023 Local community living on the Batéké Plateau, DRC.

In 2023, IGH finalised a three-year project designed to help reforest the Itombwe Nature Reserve, reputed to be one of the most important sites in Africa for flora and fauna conservation. Working with local communities, 160 representatives from eight villages have been trained to collect seeds and fruit from the forest and plant them in nurseries. As a result, over 560,000 tree seedlings have been planted on 500 hectares of degraded land in the reserve's eastern buffer zone. Local communities, on whom the sustainable use of natural resources depends, have been at the heart of the project and continue to care for the seedlings to improve their survival rate.

#### Organisation: Sécodev – 2021-2023

Sécodev and its local partner, Action Sociale pour le Développement Communautaire (ASODEC), also completed a reforestation initiative in 2023. The main aim of the project, entitled "Reforestation and agroforestry on the Batéké Plateau", was to help restore forests that had been degraded or destroyed while contributing to the socio-economic development of farming families living on the plateau. The work was based on the creation of inclusive farmers' associations trained and supervised to manage the region's forest parks.



# GUINEA



#### Organisation: Antenna Foundation – 2023-2027

The aim of the "Agro-ecological learning farms for food security in Guinea" project is to disseminate sustainable and innovative agro-ecological practices to enhance the resilience and autonomy of local populations while preserving the environment.

These practices are tested on so-called "parent" pilot farms in the country's four climatic regions, before being disseminated via training workshops and a network of "sister" farms. Additional assistance is planned through a national roll-out project supported by the Ministry of Agriculture. In the long term, the farms will continue to run without Antenna's involvement.

By having sustainable alternative sources of income and livelihoods, rural Guinean communities will be able to reduce their dependence on forest resources.

**Examples of Antenna's achievements in 2023:** establishing a parent farm in Middle Guinea; creating two parent farms in Lower and Upper Guinea; training producers selected for sister farms; helping farmers to establish agro-ecological businesses on their land.

# MADAGASCAR



In Madagascar, the Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees has contributed to the implementation of two projects designed to help balance out the requirements of local communities and the need to protect biodiversity.

#### Organisation: Blue Ventures - 2022-2023

"Blue forests: safeguarding a crucial resource for coastal livelihoods, climate change mitigation and resilience" is a Blue Ventures initiative designed to conserve and restore the mangrove forests and fisheries of Belo sur Mer, on the west coast of Madagascar. With their globally significant marine biodiversity, mangroves provide coastal communities with many means of subsistence. However, they are experiencing deforestation, with some regions losing more than 3.5% of their biodiversity every year. To combat the factors responsible for this phenomenon, Blue forests has helped communities to develop alternative livelihoods and become involved in mangrove conservation and management. By the end of the project, the area's mangrove cover had increased from 2 to 51 hectares and the crab catch per fisherman had risen from 249 grammes to over 6 kilogrammes, testifying to the success of the measures taken for the environment and local communities alike.

**Examples of Blue Ventures' achievements in 2023:** establishing two village management groups representing 423 people and securing their rights to 4,566 hectares of mangroves; supporting community initiatives to protect 8,656 hectares of mangroves; training 30 people in mangrove reforestation techniques, with an 82% survival rate; helping seven villages to manage their marine resources; conducting 18 awareness-raising sessions in seven villages; training 55 people in artisanal smoking techniques to add value to fish products; training 44 people in seaweed farming.



### Organisation: Helpsimus (French Association for the Conservation of the Greater Bamboo Lemur) – 2022-2023

The "Bamboo lemur" project is a three-phase programme designed to preserve the habitat of the greater bamboo lemur (*Prolemur simus*) in Madagascar. It involves the scientific monitoring of the species, protection of its environment, development aid for villages near groups of greater bamboo lemurs and funding for children's education. The first two phases of the project led to a 2.5-fold increase in the species' population. The third phase, which began in 2022, should enable the greater bamboo lemurs to live in harmony with local communities. It focuses on resolving conflicts between farmers and bamboo lemurs (which sometimes feed on cultivated plants), providing local communities with sufficient resources to limit their impact on the animals' habitat and raising awareness of the importance of environmental protection among children.

**Examples of Helpsimus' achievements in 2023:** supporting crop guarding; assisting with the development of an Improved Rice Cultivation System to increase rice yields for 212 families (by a factor of 3.6); building 172 m of irrigation canals and two dams; helping to set up an eco-tourism circuit; organising 12 forest visits, 15 forest classes and 131 workshops to raise awareness about local biodiversity.



#### Organisation: Inter Aide - 2020-2023

The project entitled "Improving the lives of rural communities through the planting of agroforestry groves and by adopting agro-ecological practices" ran from 2020 to 2023 in the Lilongwe district, a very densely populated area (> 250 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>) that is home to some of the most vulnerable Malawian populations. The inhabitants live off subsistence farming, which is under threat from deforestation, erosion, loss of soil fertility, a lack of crop diversity and limited access to agricultural land.

The emphasis was placed on promoting agro-ecological practices and seed conservation to increase and diversify these families' sources of income and food, and consequently to boost their autonomy in relation to forest ecosystems.

**Examples of Inter Aide's achievements in 2023:** supporting 4,165 families; planting 562,596 trees; creating 237 village nurseries; establishing 91 seed banks; densifying cropping systems; increasing the area of land planted with legumes; improving families' yields.

### MOROCCO



#### Organisation: N'Terractive - 2022-2024

In order to respond to the climate emergency and combat poverty and rural exodus in the semiarid region of Sidi Bennour in Morocco, the N'Terractive organisation launched the "Nourishing and medicinal forests" project in 2022. The aim is to initiate a technology and knowledge transfer system to increase the number of forests of this type.

**Examples of N'Terractive's achievements in 2023:** establishing a working methodology; selecting stakeholders for establishing forests, especially project managers; identifying the location of the first forest, which will operate for demonstration and awareness-raising purposes.



# SENEGAL





Mangroves are a central link in Senegal's ecosystemic and socio-economic balance, both along the estuary and in the country's hinterland. They offer irreplaceable pockets of biodiversity and resources, barriers against coastal erosion and the salinisation of land and aquifers, and real carbon sinks, providing unrivalled ecosystem services.

### Organisation: International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA) – 2021-2023

In the Sine-Saloum region, the rising proportion of saline land is one of the main causes of loss of plant cover, land degradation and aquifer contamination. From 2021 to 2023, the Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees supported the "Sea forest" project, designed to halt this process and initiate a diversified transition for these areas by promoting more productive landscapes that respect local biodiversity. To this end, the IRHA decided on a combined landscape intervention to restore the mangrove ecosystem, manage natural resources and reintroduce small agroforestry islands.

These efforts have benefited the communities of four estuarine settlements in the Djilas village (Fatick department). They have also helped to improve the general state of ecosystems and living conditions for communities by bolstering their resilience in the face of climate and health risks.

**Examples of IRHA's achievements from 2021 to 2023:** running awareness-raising activities in villages; organising four information meetings on mangrove planting and its importance for the region's ecosystem; planting 4,300 trees at five sites.

## TANZANIA

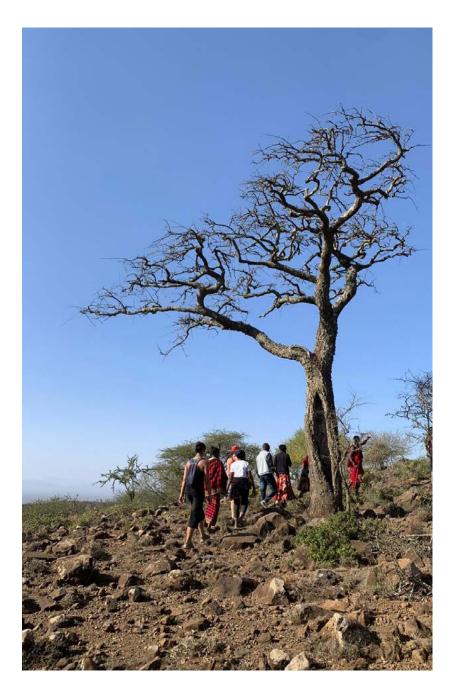


The mosaic of mountain forests and savannahs in northern Tanzania is losing biodiversity at an alarming rate. More than 250,000 people and two million livestock living in the region are suffering from environmental degradation, which is causing poverty and malnutrition, compounded in turn by gender discrimination and vulnerability to climate change.

#### Organisation: Istituto Oikos - 2022-2024

By giving isolated populations of farmers and shepherds day-to-day support, Istituto Oikos is attempting to kick-start a transition towards an inclusive and sustainable economy by combining biodiversity, income generation and social innovation. The organisation pays particular attention to vocational training and the integration of young people and women into the labour market. It ensures the ongoing involvement of a wide range of stakeholders, including businesses, local authorities, associations and academic institutions. The "Mountain farmers and savannah pastoralists: conserving sustainable livelihoods in East Africa" project falls within this framework through its four goals: environmental conservation by local communities, pasture restoration by women, the creation of sustainable alternative incomes to logging, and education.

**Examples of Oikos' achievements in 2023:** recruiting and training 20 male and 20 female forest wardens to set up restoration activities; conducting environmental awareness campaigns among 1,178 children in nine schools.



Community-led tourism in Tanzania.



The highlands in Togo are an ecological hotspot with a particularly rich wealth of biodiversity. Entire communities have settled around forest reserves to exploit resources, often illegally, threatening the biodiversity and ecosystem of the entire region.

### Organisation: Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Suisse (VSF-Suisse) – 2021-2024

To compensate for the overexploitation of forests, it is important that local people have sustainable alternative sources of income. Through the "MiKaGo - Miel, Karité, Gouvernance" project, VSF-Suisse aims to initiate the creation of cooperatives of small-scale farmers trained in beekeeping and shea nut processing. By strengthening local governance and developing the honey and shea sectors as alternatives to charcoal production, the project aims to reduce pressure on forests.

#### Organisation: Association Morija – 2022-2025

The Association Morija's "Agroforestry and green entrepreneurship" project involves helping about a hundred young people living in rural communities to set up new coffee and cacao plots, while restoring agricultural soil through agroforestry. It also includes training 300 coffee growers from the Fédération des Unions de Producteurs de café et de cacao au Togo (FUPROCAT) in shade management through agroforestry. Morija's aim is to improve the living conditions of small-scale producers while developing environmentally friendly farming practices.

**Examples of Morija's achievements in 2023:** empowering 150 members of the FUPROCAT network; raising awareness about sustainable wildfire management; training 40 women to make and market soaps from cocca pods; training beekeepers and producing 12 litres of honey in the first quarter of the year.





# UGANDA



Uganda is a country with a wealth of biodiversity and natural treasures. Its economy is heavily dependent on its environment: agriculture employs 70% of the population and accounts for half of export earnings. In this context, healthy forests are an essential component of rural resilience. But between 1990 and 2015, forest cover fell from almost 5 million hectares to less than 2 million hectares. Human activities are the main cause of deforestation in Uganda. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), over 8 million hectares could be restored through measures such as afforestation, reforestation and agroforestry.

In 2023, the Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees collaborated with two organisations whose projects work at different levels to curb these problems in Uganda.

#### **Organisation: Biovision Foundation – 2021-2024**

The "Mpigi forest school", founded in 2012, aims to protect forests and raise awareness among local people of their ecological, cultural and economic importance through the prism of traditional medicine. The school provides training in natural resource conservation and the sustainable use of medicinal plants. It fosters the perpetuation of ancestral expertise and promotes knowledge sharing between communities, students and scientists on the sustainable use of natural resources, the production of local medicinal plants and environmental conservation.

#### **Organisation: Fairventures Worldwide – 2020-2023**

The "Sustainable mass timber construction for resilient rural economies" project began in 2020. It strives to offer forest restoration solutions that align with the creation of economic opportunities for local communities. The project involves planting agroforestry trees that can be used as timber in the construction industry. To this end, Fairventures is working in four strategic areas alongside a range of local and international stakeholders: identifying appropriate and beneficial tree species for community afforestation; establishing mixed wood agroforestry systems that benefit local communities; building the capacity of regional small and medium-sized companies; and raising awareness. From top to bottom: a woman planting a tree in Uganda; erecting part of a wall in Uganda.







### EUROPE

Most of the projects supported in Europe in 2023 took place in Switzerland and focused on raising awareness of environmental issues among young people. The Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees financed the creation of forest visitor areas and educational trails, for example, which showcase nature while offering leisure activities for young people and their families. Outdoor learning not only helps to develop behaviour that respects nature from an early age, but it also has a positive impact on the social skills of children and young people. By improving their relationship with nature, they acquire the resources they need to become active eco-citizens.

Sculptures on the Brigand trail in the Parc naturel du Jorat, Switzerland.

# ENGLAND



#### **Organisation: The National Forest Company – 2020-2024**

The "Creating a forest for learning II" project is the continuation of an initiative that was set up in 2016 by The National Forest Company to establish regular outdoor lessons (at least once a month) in the National Forest at 50% of primary schools located within the forest's perimeter by the end of 2019. In view of its success, The National Forest Company has extended the programme to involve 100% of these primary schools in forest learning. This second strand is also exploring the possibility of introducing outdoor learning activities in 40% of secondary schools and nurseries to encourage as many young people and children as possible to interact with nature.

This second phase is based on the concept of "champion" schools, where schools embarking on outdoor learning for the first time are given the opportunity to learn from the experiences of their peers in this field. It also includes financial assistance to enable the teachers concerned to follow training in forest school management and acquire the equipment they need for outdoor teaching.

"Creating a forest for learning II" is also intended to encourage schools that are already involved in outdoor learning to offer other environmental awareness activities as part of their curriculum. Finally, the initiative aims to ensure that the benefits of this type of learning programme are recognised on a national level.

The Foundation travelled to England in September 2023 to meet The National Forest Company team, assess the results of their programme and define future priorities.

**Examples of The National Forest Company's achievements in 2023:** providing financial support to 23 schools for teacher training or to improve outdoor facilities on school grounds for outdoor education; awarding 16 schools "champion" status, including the first secondary school; seeing 90% of primary schools in the National Forest area implementing outdoor education at least once a week.



#### Organisation: Robin du Bois - 2021-2023

Through the "Save the Pilat forests" project, Robin du Bois aims to combat clearcutting and preserve biodiversity by purchasing woodland plots and applying sustainable management principles to them. The project is based on the acquisition, over a ten-year period, of 100 hectares of land under an ORE (real environmental obligation) contract for 99 years. These hectares are managed by Robin du Bois for a period of five to ten years (to respect forest time and assess their evolution). At the end of this period, they are sold to new owners who must follow the ORE contract's directives. The proceeds from these sales are invested in the purchase of new forest plots to start the cycle again.

A forest school in England.



# ITALY



#### Organisation: Jardin botanique de l'Université de Fribourg - 2021-2023

The main aim of the work being carried out by the Jardin botanique de l'Université de Fribourg in Italy, in collaboration with the Institute of Biosciences and Bioresources in Palermo, is to ensure the long-term conservation of one of the most endangered woody vascular plant species in the Mediterranean basin: *Ptilostemon greuteri*. This plant, which is currently only found in two small localities in Sicily, is not part of any conservation plan. Due to the extreme fragmentation of its habitat and frequent forest fires in the region, which have decimated its populations, it is in serious danger of extinction.

Entitled "Conservation of threatened woody species", the project involves, among other things, implementing on-site conservation initiatives to strengthen existing *P. greuteri* populations and reintroducing the species into suitable new areas. It also encompasses an in-depth study of the species, which will improve expertise and knowledge of its biology and ecology with a view to ensuring its long-term conservation.

## SCOTLAND



#### Organisation: Trees for Life – 2020-2023

From 2020 to 2023, the Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees helped to fund a wildlife centre in the Scottish Highlands. Dundreggan Rewilding Centre is a hub dedicated to nature, where people can meet up and discuss themes related to conservation. It also offers a host of educational and recreational experiences for students of all ages and visitors alike.

Raising awareness is a key part of the project, as is promoting the region's natural and cultural heritage, such as the Gaelic language, which is deeply rooted in the history of the Highlands and their landscape.

*Ptilostemon greuteri* in its natural habitat in Sicily, Italy.





#### Organisation: Commune de Burtigny – 2021-2024

In Burtigny, in the foothills of the Jura mountains in the canton of Vaud, the "Fruit-producing edges of the Grandes Tattes forest" initiative is continuing. It began in 2021 with the aim of revitalising the edges of the municipality's 200-hectare forest. In time, a dense natural forest shrubland will be recreated, enhancing plant and animal diversity and ensuring the preservation of the forest biotope.

### Organisation: Association du Parc naturel régional Jura vaudois – 2022-2025

The Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees has been working with the Parc naturel régional Jura vaudois since 2022 as part of its "Toile verte" initiative, which is committed to preserving biodiversity by supporting the restoration of biotopes and the planting of native hedges and tall fruit trees, and by assisting local authorities in the management of green spaces in built-up areas.

#### Organisation: Alpes vivantes – 2023-2026

In the Vaud Alps, the Alpes vivantes organisation is working to protect biodiversity and raise awareness among young people. Its "Sustainable protection of biodiversity in the Vaud Alps" project aims to help boost the region's biodiversity. This approach involves various measures, such as the creation, maintenance and revitalisation of habitats, fighting invasive exotic species and educating about the natural world.

### Organisation: Association des Amis de l'ESEP (Établissement scolaire Elisabeth de Portes) – 2021-2023

Since 2021, the Association des Amis de l'ESEP has been running a pilot educational project known as "Espaces vivants", which involves creating small natural areas conducive to biodiversity in and around the Elisabeth de Portes school complex in Borex-Crassier. Created and maintained by pupils and teachers under the supervision of specialists, these areas enable tangible action to be taken to promote biodiversity, while providing opportunities to raise awareness and teaching aids that meet the aims of the *Plan d'études romand* (curriculum for French-speaking Switzerland).

The project is due to be replicated in four other schools in the Nyon-La Côte area, with the support of the Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees.

**Examples of ESEP's achievements from 2021 to 2023:** implementing 37 initiatives and 20 maintenance actions to produce a total of 2,162 m<sup>2</sup> of revitalised areas, including: the creation of a 140 m<sup>2</sup> wetland; the creation of a dry environment and ruderal areas across 82 m<sup>2</sup>; the planting of 39 linear metres of fruit hedges and 70 linear metres of hedgerows; the conversion of a fountain to illustrate plant evolution; the installation of a nesting box for kestrels; the creation of a 63 m<sup>2</sup> useful plant garden; the creation of a 28 m<sup>2</sup> medicinal plant garden; the introduction of three rows of tall trees; the sowing of cereals and legumes; the planting of a vegetable garden; the creation of habitats for lizards and small mustelids.

# SWITZERLAND





In Switzerland, the Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees supported around a dozen projects in 2023.

#### Organisation: Printemps d'abeille - 2023-2024

The "A school for bees" project offers educational activities and events focused on biodiversity preservation. The aim is to raise awareness among pupils in nine schools, primarily in the canton of Geneva, about the importance of protecting the environment through activities linked to the life of bees.



An interpretive panel on the Risoud tonewood educational trail in Switzerland.

#### Organisation: Association du Sentier didactique du bois de résonance du Risoud – 2022-2023

In the Vallée de Joux, the Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees contributed to the creation of a new educational trail in Risoud Forest, which was inaugurated in June 2023. Its aim is to promote tonewood spruce - Risoud's green gold - and the entire forestry sector that depends on it. It is also working to create a service designed to welcome forest visitors and to raise awareness of Risoud's rich yet fragile biodiversity as well as the importance of sustainable forest management.



Organisation: ForêtNeuchâtel - 2022-2027

Tonewood spruces are also at the heart of the intercantonal "Forêtxcellence" project run by ForêtNeuchâtel. The aim of this project is to draw up an inventory of these rare trees and set up a supraregional value chain for tonewood in the Jura Arc. Pre-processed into boards, the tonewood will be stored and displayed in a xylotheque in Cernier (NE), where luthiers and instrument-makers will be able to come and obtain supplies to create musical works of art with a clearly identified provenance. The xylotheque will also help raise public awareness about just how rich the Jura Arc forests are, and will be the cradle of comprehensive and circular ancestral knowhow, from the forest ranger to the luthier.



Organisation: Association pour la sauvegarde de Morges (ASM) – 2022-2023

In 2023, the Association pour la sauvegarde de Morges redeveloped the "Sentier de la Morges trail", which now offers almost 5 km of safe walking along the Morges River. The walk includes two educational routes that use games and sensory experiences to raise awareness among families and children about the riches of the Morges Valley, the need to respect its flora and fauna and the issues surrounding sustainability. The routes, which are supplemented by a teaching pack, are compatible with the *Plan d'études romand* (curriculum for French-speaking Switzerland).





#### Organisation: Parc naturel du Jorat - 2021-2024

Located in the heart of the largest forest on the Swiss Plateau, the Parc naturel du Jorat also offers themed educational trails defined per school age group and tailored to pupils' needs. These trails are an integral part of the park's redevelopment work, which began in 2021 with the Foundation's support, to improve the services provided to visitors, including people with reduced mobility and school pupils.



#### Organisation: BirdLife Suisse – 2022-2024

To celebrate its centenary, the organisation BirdLife Suisse launched a project to restore natural habitats in Switzerland in collaboration with its national organisations, cantonal associations and local branches. The "100 natural jewels for Switzerland" initiative aims to rehabilitate, restore or create valuable new habitats for biodiversity on at least 100 sites in various regions of Switzerland. It is supplemented by numerous activities involving the general public, volunteers of all ages and schools in the implementation of measures, which helps to raise awareness and understanding of the value of natural environments. Some projects also include the creation of educational trails around rehabilitated sites, with the aim of informing the public about the needs of biodiversity. Together, these natural environments contribute to the diversity and biological permeability of the landscape, and thus help to preserve biodiversity in Switzerland.

Arboretum du Vallon de l'Aubonne, Switzerland.

### Organisation: Association de l'Arboretum national du Vallon de l'Aubonne – 2022-2026

Since 2013, the Arboretum du Vallon de l'Aubonne, located between Geneva and Lausanne, has seen a steady increase in visitor numbers, which has led to the need to consolidate the services it provides to the general public. The Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees supports the Arboretum in the design, management and running of outreach programmes to promote its collections and scientific themes. In addition, the project aims to help in the conservation of the Arboretum's dendrological collections.



### ASIA

To address the problem of forest degradation, restoration must go beyond simple reforestation to enable forests to recover their original ecological function in the context of the landscape to which they belong. In addition, the livelihoods of local communities must be improved while reducing the pressure placed on forest ecosystems.

In Asia, the projects supported by the Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees in 2023 reflect this approach, notably through the promotion of sustainable cultivation and the creation of non-timber forest product (NTFP) channels.

Beneficiary of the Green Cashew project, Cambodia.





#### Organisation: SHEN – 2019-2023

Chambarak and Ttujur in Armenia are mountain localities that have been negatively affected by the non-use of agricultural land and the absence of horticulture and arboriculture, with the inhabitants devoting themselves mainly to livestock farming, irregular grazing and illegal logging. In addition, the land has been exposed to erosion and the region's microclimate has changed, considerably restricting water resources.

The "Afforestation of Chambarak and Ttujur communities" project involved implementing a pilot reforestation and forest management plan for community land with the active participation of local communities.

**Examples of SHEN's achievements from 2019 to 2023:** creating mixed forest belts; planting 21 hectares of trees; modernising the irrigation system in Ttujur; raising awareness of forest-related issues.

# INDIA





#### Organisation: Pragya - 2020-2023

Medicinal and aromatic plants are an important part of the Himalayan flora and contribute to the stability of its ecosystems. They are also at the heart of the cultures of remote communities, who use them in their traditional medicine. Unfortunately, the species, habitats and cultural aspects associated with them are gradually disappearing because of their extraction for commercial purposes.

In response to this problem, Pragya has set up a programme to protect plants in the wild that directly involves Himalayan communities. This project, entitled "Ancestral knowledge preservation, conservation and cultivation of endangered medicinal and aromatic plants in the Himalayas", funded by the Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees, has extended the scope of the Pragya programme to include the districts of Chamba and Leh to the west of the Indian Himalayas.

## CAMBODIA



#### Organisation: EPER – 2023-2026

Conducted in Cambodia, the "Green Cashew - Sustainable cashew cultivation to fight climate change" project aims to make rural populations more self-sufficient in relation to forest resources, with a view to promoting sustainable rural development. It focuses, in particular, on the cultivation of cashew nuts by small-scale producers. By increasing their income, they become more resilient in the face of climate change.



# INDONESIA



#### Organisation: Cœur de Forêt - 2022-2025

Every year, the island of Flores in the Sunda archipelago is affected by the practice of slash-and-burn agriculture, which leads to a reduction in forests and the deterioration of water resources. Initiated in 2014 by Cœur de Forêt, the "Forest restoration and preservation on the island of Flores, Indonesia" project strives to preserve forest areas and support the development of income-generating activities for local producers. Since 2016, a new technique for restoring forest ecosystems has been available. It has already enabled almost 190 hectares of forest affected by recurring fires to be reforested by direct seeding, using more than twenty species and 340,000 *Gliricidia sepium* macro-cuttings. Improved over the years, the method has been supplemented by additional measures designed to give farmers alternatives to using fire.

#### **Organisation: PanEco Foundation – 2020-2023**

In Sumatra, Java and Sulawesi, the PanEco Foundation concentrates its action on environmental education in relation to tropical forests and orangutans. The Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees has contributed to awareness-raising activities at three environmental education centres run jointly by PanEco and YEL Indonesia. The centres raise awareness among national and international visitors of the need to protect tropical ecosystems, emphasising their importance for the livelihoods of local populations. They also support local communities through skills development, the creation of alternative sources of income and sustainable agriculture.

#### Examples of PanEco's achievements from 2020 to 2023:

organising educational outings for 1,400 children; visiting 80 schools and universities; creating a plant nursery; planting 4,000 mangrove trees and seedlings.







#### Organisation: Fauna & Flora International (FFI) - 2020-2023

Tajikistan's forests are under serious threat. Extreme poverty is exacerbating the overexploitation of natural resources to such an extent that more than 50% of the country's forests have disappeared in the last 100 years.

As part of the "Supporting local communities through the conservation of ancient fruit and nut forests" project, FFI worked with 500 people from five communities in southern Tajikistan (Khatlon province). The organisation has given local people the means to participate in the restoration and sustainable management of fruit and nut forests, while helping them to generate income from these products.





#### Organisation: GRET – 2020-2024

In Vietnam, as elsewhere, the protection of natural areas is often fostered by the full and inclusive involvement of local populations, who are dependent on both natural resources and their conservation. In order to achieve goal 15 of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, promote greater social justice and empower the most vulnerable, the international solidarity organisation GRET is implementing a project designed to safeguard and manage Pu Luong Nature Reserve in an inclusive manner, encouraging the protection of the common good that this natural area represents while improving the living conditions of women from ethnic minorities.

Vietnamese women, especially those from ethnic minorities, face discriminatory attitudes and numerous difficulties, including poverty and limited access to higher education and employment opportunities. Some of these women live in or near nature reserves like Pu Luong (17,662 ha), which is located in Thanh Hoa province in the North Central Coast region of Vietnam. This reserve is home to some significant forests undergoing ecological restoration as well as to a rich biodiversity. It also protects the drainage basins of the Ma River. The transition from access to natural areas previously managed by communities to strict government control increases the vulnerability and marginalisation of the poorest people. Local communities have little to no agricultural land and live mainly from livestock farming and forest products. Women from minorities, who are traditionally assigned to the home, are particularly affected, as men benefit from professional opportunities outside the agricultural sector.

It was against this backdrop that the Quan Hoa Rural Development Cooperative and GRET launched the "Empowering ethnic minority women for sustainable forest management in nature reserves" project. The aim is to improve the living conditions and economic autonomy of women from Thai and Muong ethnic minorities while ensuring inclusive and sustainable forest management in Pu Luong Nature Reserve's protected areas and buffer zones.





From top to bottom: Mrs Bien in Bam village, Vietnam; Bang village, Vietnam.



### LATIN AMERICA

In Latin America, the two projects funded by the Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees in 2023 focused on recognising, promoting and perpetuating the sustainable practices known to indigenous populations and local communities.

For thousands of years, indigenous populations have been the custodians of many forms of traditional farming and forestry practices that respect nature and climate constraints. They manage to make a living from forests, crops and tree products while giving these resources time to regenerate. They grow a variety of food crops using indigenous species and value what nature has to offer through medicinal applications, for example. Areas managed by indigenous communities are generally richer in biodiversity than those administered by non-indigenous or non-First-Nations people. In some countries, they even have a vertebrate biodiversity that is equal to or greater than protected areas. The respect that indigenous populations show for forests is partly explained by the identity-based, cultural and spiritual symbolism they attach to them.

A maya nut forest in Colombia.



# COLOMBIA



#### Organisation: Envol Vert – 2022-2025

In 2022, the Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees renewed its partnership with Envol Vert as part of the "Preserving the last dry forests through agroforestry" programme. This programme, which continued in 2023, focuses on replicating agroforestry and silvopasture projects with farmers as a means of preserving dry tropical forests in Colombia, where only 8% of the original dry-forest surface area remains. In parallel, economic and food alternatives that respect the forest (Maya nut flour, for example) are being created and marketed. The programme is also based on knowledge sharing between farmers in order to enhance practices.

**Examples of Envol Vert's achievements in 2023:** planting 10,910 trees; creating 14 plant nurseries; organising 142 lessons, outings and workshops for 887 participants; publishing a learning guide containing the best practices of three organisations in setting up community nurseries for the reforestation of native species; inaugurating a commercial nursery; increasing production, sales and income figures for 160 families and four communities; developing and marketing locally processed products; creating two Maya nut seed processing units.

# PERU



#### Organisation: Nouvelle Planète – 2021-2025

The "Protection of the forest through the official establishment of indigenous communities" project is located in the north of the Peruvian Amazon in the Loreto region. This area is under heavy pressure from timber extractors, who take advantage of the lack of official documentation proving land ownership by local communities.

The aim of the project is thus to establish legal personality and to secure land rights across the territories of 44 indigenous communities in the Lower Ucayali basin, thereby protecting at least 200,000 hectares of the Amazon rainforest. Jointly coordinated on site with CEDIA (Centre for the Development of an Indigenous Amazon), the project involves the topographical demarcation of the land belonging to these 44 indigenous communities – representing around 13,000 people –, obtaining legal deeds for these communities, training community leaders in land rights and communal management, supporting the local population and combating rural exodus.

**Examples of Nouvelle Planète's achievements in 2023:** securing official land deeds for 44 communities in the field via community meetings, topographical studies, georeferencing, enlargement, demarcation, preparation of documents required to secure land deeds and capacity-building workshops for community leaders.

### **PROJECTS SELECTED OR RENEWED IN 2023**

AFRICA			
Country	Name of the organisation	Project title	Period
Benin	Centre Régional de Recherche et d'Éducation pour le Développement Intégré (CREDI-ONG)	Resilience and adaptation to climate change in the Sitatunga Valley	2023-2026

EUROPE			
Country	Name of the organisation	Project title	Period
Switzerland	Alpes vivantes	Sustainable protection of biodiversity in the Vaud Alps	2023-2026
Switzerland	Printemps d'abeilles	A school for bees	2023-2024

### **PROJECTS SELECTED BEFORE 2023**

AFRICA			
Country	Name of the organisation	Project title	Period
Benin, Ghana & Ivory Coast	Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques de la Ville de Genève (CJBG)	Multipalms	2020-2023
Burkina Faso	Action Lutte Contre la Pauvreté (ALCP)	Agro-ecological restoration and agroforestry in the green belt of the city of Ouagadougou	2022-2025
Cameroon	Appui aux Initiatives de Développement (AIDE)	Integrated management of mangrove landscapes in the Douala-Edéa National Park	2022-2024
Cameroon	Alternatives Durables pour le Développement (ADD)	Awareness raising and environmental education for young people in vocational schools and communities	2022-2023
Cape Verde	Associação Projecto Vitó	Time for conservation of endemic threatened flora in Cape Verde's islands	2022-2025
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	Mbou-Mon-Tour (MMT)	Support for sustainable development through the conservation and enhancement of local biodiversity	2022-2024
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	Actions Communautaires pour la Protection de l'Environnement (ACPE)	Supporting the reconstitution of forest cover through agro-ecological practices	2022-2025
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	Itombwe Génération pour l'Humanité (IGH)	Itombwe forest conservation	2020-2023
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	Sécodev	Reforestation and agroforestry on the Batéké Plateau	2021-2023
Guinea	Antenna Foundation	Agro-ecological learning farms for food security in Guinea	2023-2027
Madagascar	Blue Ventures	Blue forests: safeguarding a crucial resource for coastal livelihoods, climate change mitigation and resilience	2022-2023
Madagascar	Helpsimus (French Association for the Conservation of the Greater Bamboo Lemur)	Stepping up protection for Madagascar's largest wild population of greater bamboo lemurs	2022-2023
Malawi	InterAide	Improving the lives of rural communities through the planting of agroforestry groves and by adopting agro-ecological practices	2020-2023

Morocco	N'Terractive	Nourishing and medicinal forests	2022-2024
Senegal	International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA)	Sea forest	2021-2023
Tanzania	Istituto Oikos	Mountain farmers and savannah pastoralists: conserving sustainable livelihoods in East Africa	2022-2024
Тодо	Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Suisse (VSF-Suisse)	MiKaGo - Miel, Karité, Gouvernance	2021-2024
Тодо	Association Morija	Agroforestry and green entrepreneurship	2022-2025
Uganda	Biovision Foundation	Mpigi forest school	2021-2024
Uganda	Fairventures Worldwide	Sustainable mass timber construction for resilient rural economies	2020-2023

EUROPE			
Country	Name of the organisation	Project title	Period
England	The National Forest Company	Creating a forest for learning II	2020-2024
France	Robin du Bois	Save the Pilat forests	2021-2023
Italy	Jardin botanique de l'Université de Fribourg	Conservation of threatened woody species	2021-2023
Scotland	Trees for Life	Dundreggan Rewilding Centre	2020-2023
Switzerland	Commune de Burtigny	Fruit-producing edges of the Grandes Tattes forest	2021-2024

### **PROJECTS SELECTED BEFORE 2023**

Switzerland	Association du Parc naturel régional Jura vaudois	Toile verte	2022-2025
Switzerland	Association des Amis de l'ESEP	Espaces vivants	2021-2023
Switzerland	Association du Sentier didactique du bois de résonance du Risoud	Risoud resonance wood learning trail	2022-2023
Switzerland	ForêtNeuchâtel	Forêtxcellence	2022-2027
Switzerland	Association pour la sauvegarde de Morges (ASM)	Sentier de la Morges trail	2022-2023
Switzerland	Parc naturel du Jorat	Reception infrastructure at the Parc naturel du Jorat	2021-2024
Switzerland	Association de l'Arboretum national du Vallon de l'Aubonne	Improving mediation and conservation	2022-2026
Switzerland	BirdLife Suisse	100 natural jewels for Switzerland	2022-2024

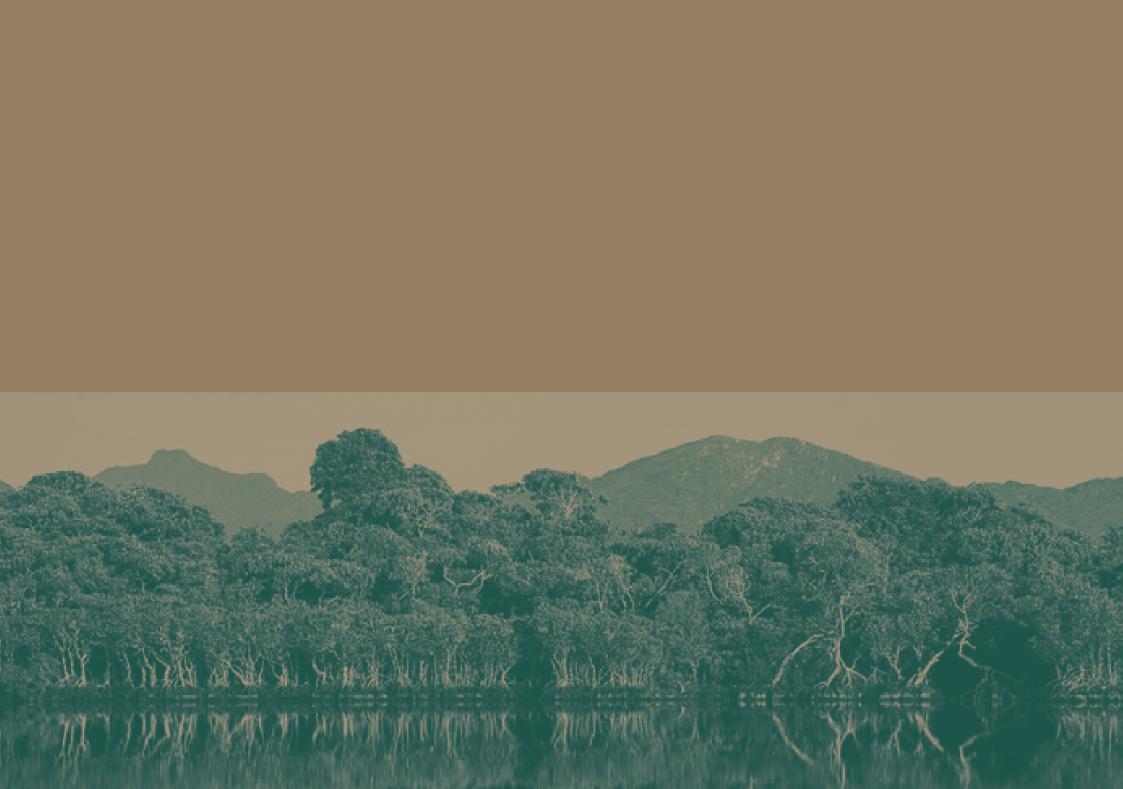
ASIA			
Country	Name of the organisation	Project title	Period
Armenia	SHEN	Afforestation of Chambarak and Ttujur communities	2019-2023
Cambodia	EPER	Green Cashew - Sustainable cashew cultivation to fight climate change	2023-2026
India	Pragya	Ancestral knowledge preservation, conservation and cultivation of endangered medicinal and aromatic plants in the Himalayas	2020-2023
Indonesia	Cœur de Forêt	Forest restoration and preservation on the island of Flores, Indonesia	2022-2025

### **PROJECTS SELECTED BEFORE 2023**

Indonesia	PanEco Foundation	Environmental education centres	2020-2023
Tajikistan	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)	Supporting local communities through the conservation of ancient fruit and nut forests	2020-2023
Vietnam	GRET	Empowering ethnic minority women for sustainable forest management in nature reserves	2020-2024

LATIN AMERICA				
Country	Name of the organisation	Project title	Period	
Colombia	Envol Vert	Preserving the last dry forests through agroforestry II	2022-2025	
Peru	Nouvelle Planète	Protection of the forest through the official establishment of indigenous communities	2021-2025	

From its creation in 1992 to 31 December 2023, the Audemars Piguet Foundation for Trees has supported more than 180 projects in around 60 countries at a cost of around 20 million Swiss francs.



#### COVER PHOTO

Vallée de Joux, Switzerland

#### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

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