GLOBAL NATUREFRIENDS DAYS

2022










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INTRODUCTION

Every year around 16 September, the birthday of the Naturefriends movement, we try to make the world aware of our common values and set an example of solidarity, communicate the diversity and international dimension of the movement and offer good practices and exchange of experiences.
Under the general motto "Nature and Solidarity", the Global Naturefriends Days 2022 took place from 9 to 18 September.



We are delighted and proud that many Naturefriends groups from different countries celebrated the Global Naturefriends Days with various inspiring meetings and actions. From hiking to litter picking to planting trees and mangroves, Naturefriends from Italy, Greece, Belgium, Mali, Finland, Romania, Senegal, Benin or Germany have celebrated the value of our movement.
During the annual conference on 15 October 2022 in Italy, three selected projects were awarded: NF Greece, AN Chênée-Embourg and NF Finland - Hike in the Saala National Park. You can read about their activities in detail in this report.

We would like to thank all our members for their commitment and dedication to spreading the values of Naturefriends in their communities and around the world!

NATUREFRIENDS GREECE

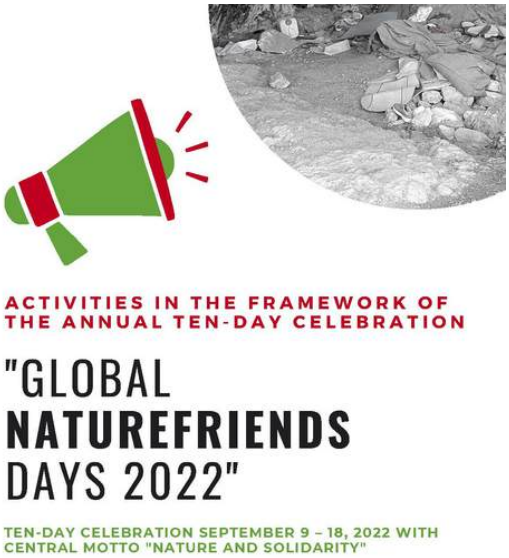
CLEANING UP THE PANOS CAVE IN THE AREA OF THE DAPHNI MONASTERY

Naturefriends Greece started the celebrations with a great mixed programme between promoting the organisation and cleaning up the Panos Cave in the area of the Daphni Monastery which is UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Saturday, 10 September 2022

Presentation of the international Naturefriends movement at the regular meeting of Biodiversity Action Europe (BAE) member organizations. The presentation entitled "Biodiversity and Tourism" was held by Greek Young.

During the presentation, special reference has been made to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their relationship with tourism as well as the Berlin Declaration on' 'Transforming Tourism".



Sunday, 11 September 2022

Cleaning of the grove around the Monastery of Daphni, a World Heritage Site, and especially the ancient Panos Cave.

15 members of NFGR participated in the action. In total, 500 kg of waste were collected. Mainly old clothes, plastics and cans of beer and soft drinks.

The action was filmed by the director Nikoleta Paraschi and will be included in a documentary on the ancient Sacred Way.







Saturday, 17 September 2022

Presentation of the international Naturefriends movement at the ERASMUS+ program "Alternative tourism in MEDiterranean Regions" (ALMERE) partners meeting.





(C) Naturefriends Greece

LES AMIS DE LA NATURE CHÊNÉE-EMBOURG

A SPECIAL WEEKEND OF AWARENESS-RAISING AND DISCOVERY AS PART OF A WIDER PROCESS OF REVITALISING THE "CHÊNÉE-EMBOURG" SECTION OF LES AMIS DE LA NATURE

Les Amis de la Nature Chênée-Embourg - Chalet "Les Gattes" à Logbiermé, Belgium had a lot to do to celebrate the Global Naturefriends Days.
Around sixty people were able to discover the Naturefriends movement and the Chalet "Les Gattes" throughout the weekend. Whether hiking, crafting birdhouses or enjoying a beer, everyone was able to enjoy the legendary conviviality of the Naturefriends.

The Global Naturefriends Days were an opportunity for us to make our activities and our cottage better known to the general public.

It all started on Saturday morning (10 September 2022) with a special "children's" nature walk, which also delighted the adults present. With the help of various educational tools (puzzles, objects, stuffed animals, etc.), our guide told us the history of the forest and made us discover its ecological, social and economic importance.

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Saturday afternoon was an opportunity to welcome occasional visitors who were able to discover the chalet and the Amis de la Nature over a local beer. Each meeting was an opportunity to explain the philosophy of our movement and its dual social and environmental objectives.



On Sunday morning, a nest box workshop was organised. In order to enhance biodiversity around the chalet, nesting boxes for different species of birds were lovingly made. Adults and children were busy with this workshop which allowed the youngest to learn about woodworking and to get to know the bird that will soon be welcomed in the nesting box they made.



Other visits took place on Sunday. About sixty people were able to discover the Amis de la Nature and the "Gattes" chalet throughout the weekend.



A day in the context of a wider revitalisation process

This special weekend of awareness-raising and discovery is part of a wider process of revitalising the "Chênée-Embourg" section of Les Amis de la Nature. Over the past year and with a small grant from WWF, we have launched a project to:

- Enhance biodiversity on the 3ha site of the Naturefriends gite through specific installations (nesting boxes, bird pool, melliferous hedges,...)

- To make the residents of the gite aware of biodiversity through the construction of an observation post for endogenous birds, the creation of signposts for our arboretum, the organisation of 3 observation weekends as well as the creation of educational sheets.

In addition to these two objectives, we have added a third one by renovating a small chalet adjoining the gite in order to create a multi-purpose activity room. This involved rebuilding a wall, refurbishing the interior and building a new workshop.



To achieve these goals, we are currently carrying out the following activities:

- Installation of 15 nesting boxes (including 3 specific ones for tawny owls and owls) and a bird pool;
- Planting of a melliferous hedge and a flowering area;
- Renovation of a hut into an observation post (restoration of the wall and installation of a one-way glass window and an observation hatch);
- Installation of signposts in the arboretum (pre-existing);
- Drafting of educational sheets on the shrub and bird species present in the grounds of the Friends of Nature gite;
- Organisation of 3 weekends of observation of the fauna and flora during the year 2022 allowing the construction and installation of 45 nesting boxes in the residents' gardens;
- Organisation of 3 weekends of work to renovate the chalet.

This project has created a great deal of momentum within the section. It allowed us to relaunch activities dedicated to the discovery of nature, to sensitize our members but also other visitors who, thanks to the activities and the renovation work, are interested in the NF movement and wish to become more involved in the association. Our General Assembly was also sensitive to the revitalisation of our section that this project allowed.

(C) Photos and Text: Les Amis de la Nature Chênée-Embourg

NATUREFRIENDS FINLAND

WITH NATUREFRIENDS IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE... HIKE IN SAALA NATIONAL PARK

The local branch of the Trekking Association of Finland celebrated the Global Naturefriends Days and the existence of the Naturefriends' movement by a hiking trip to the newest National Park in Finland

The group was keen to visit the Salla National Park in order to make it known for our trekking friends in Finland. In line with the sustainable tourism, the group of 20 persons travelled to Salla by public transport: first by night train from Helsinki to Kemijärvi, and from there by bus to Salla. The age structure of our group was versatile, varying from 2.5 years to 70+ years.

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The pandemic and global crises have demonstrated the importance of national parks and other nature destinations in terms of health and well-being.

And indeed, we also appreciated the nature experiences together with friends very high. It was also great to see how people living in the area have, besides the traditional reindeer husbandry and forestry, found new professions based on nature tourism and sustainable use of resources. Living in wilderness asks for resilience but also for ability to find opportunities in tough environment.





The Salla National Park with total area of 100 km² was opened for public in June 2022. Typical for the area are the old-growth forests stretching from ravines and mires to the tops of the fells. The hiking trails wind along ridges and gorges and beside small pristine lakes filled with clean fresh water. From the top of Iso Pyhätunturi fell one can admire the vast landscapes and large fells. This is the home of the capercaillie, which can be found in the emblem of the Park.



(C) Photos :Kari Neuvonen, Seppo Hanhikorpi
Text: Mia Neuvonen, Vihdin Retkeilijät ry (Trekkers in Vihti)

"WATER, A PRECIOUS RESOURCE ... TO PROTECT"

Naturefriends Italy presented their recent work to defend the right and access to the most precious good: WATER

On 17th September 2022 the Italian federation of Naturfriends joined the whole Naturfreunde movement to celebrate its foundation since 1895 in Vienna, with a national event organized in Volterra.

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"Water, a precious resource ... to protect" is the name given to the conference held at the Logge of Palazzo Pretorio, to which quite all local groups of the Italian Naturefriends have contributed, together with the municipal administration itself, represented by the Councillor for the Environment Davide Bettini who jointly presented the project "Contract for River Cecina" with the local group in Volterra .



"Contract for River Cecina" the presentation made by the local administration together with the section of Volterra, highlighted the work done by a technical table open to all local realities. It was intended to regulate the use of the waters of River Cecina and preserve the river ecosystem by creating a regional river park and slow water flow channels. The aim of this experience is to understand the complexity of the systems (natural, agricultural, industrial, tourist, etc.) that the river holds linked to each other, and make them more resilient and more reactive to climate change...







"Burkina Project", the presentation made by the section Gran Pino in Cecina (LI), summarized a project now in its third edition. Born in 2016 with the goal of creating a water supply well in the village of Bangagou (in Burkina Faso) to counter the growing desertification caused by climate change, and realized in 2018, the project soon proved insufficient to ensure water self-sufficiency. For this reason, it was extended in order to build a second well in 2020.



The guarantee of access to drinking water has positively changed the habits and perspectives of the village, which no longer has to undergo exhausting night-time water searches. Rather, it choose to improve the school service thanks to the third edition of the project, aimed at creating a school structure and a vegetable garden for the canteen, which also led to the foundation of a local group of Naturefriends.



"Maxi-purifier of Garda", the presentation made by the local group of Ledro Inselberg (TN), concerns a protest that officially began on 9 August 2021, with an authorized garrison, formed by spontaneous committees of citizens and still ongoing. The subject of the protest is the will of the special commissioner of Brescia to build on the Brescia shore of Lake Garda a new system of 2 purifiers, which releases the purified water in the river Chiese, belonging to a different water system. The mixing of water coming from distinct water basins is prohibited by the European directive of the water framework and goes against the will expressed by the representations of the territories in the provincial council of Brescia (Sarnico motion) according to which the consortium purifiers must be carried out in the territories of the affected municipalities.

"Let it flow", the presentation made jointly by two local groups Saviore dell'Adamello (BS) and Val di Scalve (BG), stands against the uncontrolled proliferation of mini-hydroelectric power plants on streams and rivers of Val Camonica and Val di Scalve where, thanks also to the complicity of complacent municipalities, permits for the construction of the aforementioned plants (which don't take into account the Environmental flow, which is the minimum amount of water necessary to ensure the survival of the river ecosystem) are too easily issued.





Emblematic is the example of the Dezzo stream in which, due to the proliferation of such plants, in a stretch of 25km, water flows freely for only 1 km. It should also be considered that an excessive presence of dams is a problem not only for fish fauna, but also for sediment flow, with repercussions on coastal ecosystems.



(C) Photos GIAN - Text Christian Facchetti

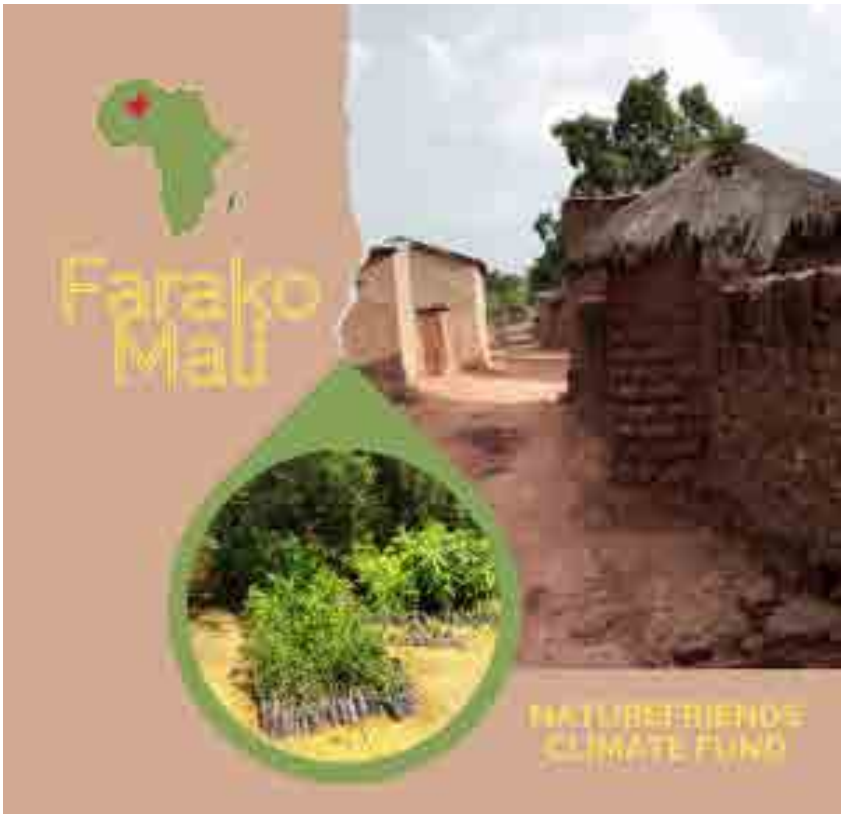
FARAKO TREE NURSERY, MALI

Fruit trees plantings

The current Climate Fund project participated in the Global Naturefriends Days with a day of planting orange seedlings.

The project aims to fight poverty and hunger while mitigating the effects of climate change by establishing a commercial nursery that produces fruit tree seedlings.

It is implemented by the NFI partner organisation (C-member) 2ADIB-MALI Amis de la Nature..



After having difficulties at the beginning of the project obtaining orange and papaya seeds, the team focused on planting a large area of mango nursery. Indeed, today, in the 60 plots, each of which contains at least 110 mango trees, more than 6000 young mango trees are slowly growing in the nursery.

Moreover, after the lifting of economic sanctions, the project team managed to order the orange seedlings and a first bed was made on 09 September 2022.

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(C) Photos 2ADIB-MALI /Amis de la Nature

NATUREFRIENDS BENIN

MULTI-NATIONAL CELEBRATION OF THE GLOBAL NATURE DAYS 2022 IN SENEGAL

A delegation of young Naturefriends from Benin met with their counterparts from Senegal, Germany, Italy, Czechia and Spain in the south of Senegal, more precisely in Saint-Louis, to discuss climate issues and celebrate the Global Naturefriends Days together.



Indoor workshops, outdoor games, mangrove reforestation and discovery of the region were the main activities of this unforgettable stay which took place during the week of 5 to 10 September.



In total, about thirty participants from these different countries took an active part in these different activities which enabled the young Naturefriends to become aware of the notion of carbon footprint and the methods of calculation and the criteria for making choices on a daily basis in order to move towards carbon neutrality.



Moreover, after having exchanged on the mangrove and its extraordinary capacity of sequestering atmospheric carbon, 4ha of mangrove were reforested with mangrove propagules in the Langue de Barbarie National Park. This gesture is an example of carbon offsetting, an essential act to contribute to the mitigation of climate change and international solidarity for climate justice.

In a friendly atmosphere conducive to learning, the Naturefriends shared common values for better adaptation and resilience to climate change.







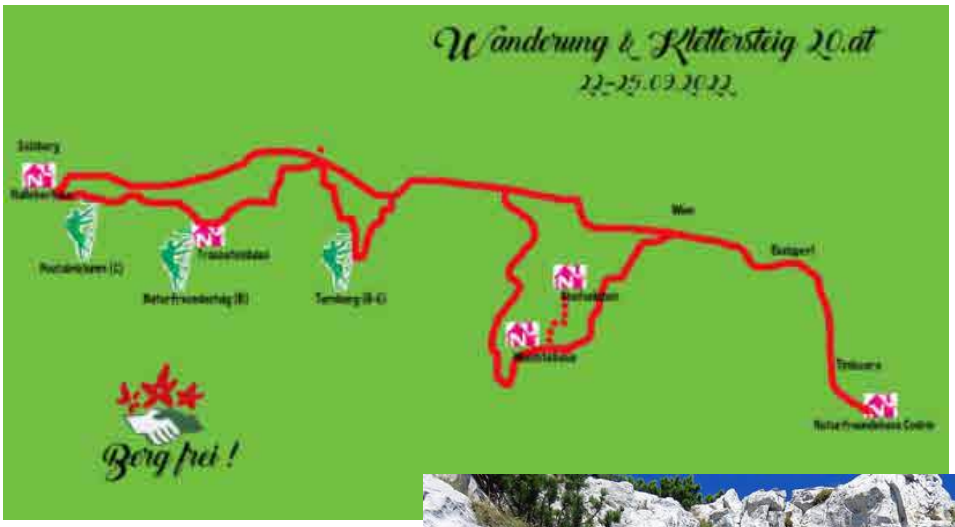


Photos: Young German Naturefriends, Credit-ONG, Benin
Text: Martial Kouderin, Credit-ONG, Benin

CONNECTING WITH NATUREFRIENDS FROM AUSTRIA

Three members of Prietenii Naturii Timisoara, Diana, Ciprian, the tenants of the Codrin Naturefriends House in the Mountains of Retezat, Romania and Adrian, the coordinator of the via ferrata section, visited in September Naturefriends from Austria.

Their aim was to identify problems/solutions found by other naturefriendshouses, in finding new destinations for future programmes and to participate in the celebration of 100 years of the Naturefriends house Knofeleben.





This is their story.

''After a stop at the Postalmklamm Klettersteig, we spent the first night at the Halleinerhaus where we had a long discussion with Daniela about the problems of the house , but also about the global situation. On Friday, after visiting the "Mythos Traunstein" museum, we went to the Naturfreundehaus Traunstein at 1600m. The climb was difficult, but the view and the food were amazing!
Since on Saturday "Klettersteig garden Weichtalhaus" was hosting a mountain rescue team exercise, we decided to go to another place, obviously also " Naturefriends": Beisteinmauer, organised by the Naturefriends Ternberg organisation.

The fact that we could not climb Rax Alpen does not mean that we did not sleep in the Weichtalhaus... we carried Manuela's festive wishes to our next destination: Knofeleben Haus!
At Knofeleben, after walking up the Mariasteig trail, we met many people who had come to celebrate the 100thanniversary of the house. A big surprise was the meeting with Andreas Schieder, who introduced me to the president of the Viennese section of Naturefriends, Helmut Frank, but also to Regina Hrbek, whom I only knew from the internet.
Berg frei''
(C) Photos and Text: Ciprian Costa Traila / Prietenii Naturii Romania









TRIP TO NORWAY

The group of 17 persons took a night train to Lapland and packed then to a bus to the Finnish border and further to Norway.

The major group started their trekking in Rognli, a small village in the Norwegian fell area and stayed overnight mostly in tents but a couple of nights were spent inside the houses Gappohytta, Goldahytta and Kuohkimajärvi. Two other smaller groups slept in tents for the whole week.

Further highlights of the week were the firstsnow and the climb to the top of Bárrás, to the height of 1,417 metres.







Infos: Erkki Sivula, Järvenpään Retkeilijät ry (Trekkers in Järvenpää)
Photos: Erkki Sivula, Seppo Ingberg, Jouko Kautto
The Trekking Association of Finland