

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



NATUREFRIENDS INTERNATIONAL



IMPRINT:

NATUREFRIENDS INTERNATIONAL (NFI), VIKTORIAGASSE 6/1 | 1150 VIENNA
OFFICE@NF-INT.ORG | WWW.NF-INT.ORG

TEXT: NATUREFRIENDS INTERNATIONAL

LAYOUT & GRAPHICS: ELENA TEUTSCH

COVER PHOTO: NFI ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025, ELENA TEUTSCH
JUNE 2026

FIND THIS PUBLICATION ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.NF-INT.ORG

Table of Contents

04

EDITORIAL

05

MEMBERS & NETWORKS

06

**SERVICES, POLICY
WORK
& PUBLIC RELATIONS**

10

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

15

**NATUREFRIENDS
CLIMATE FUND**

25

**AWARENESS RAISING
FOR SUSTAINABLE
TOURISM**

28

PILOT PROJECTS

32

PEOPLE

Editorial

DEAR MEMBERS!

The past year has once again shown how closely connected social, environmental, and political developments are across the world. Ongoing conflicts, the increasing impacts of the climate crisis, and economic uncertainty continue to affect many people and communities. At the same time, democratic values, social cohesion, and environmental protection require continuous commitment and engagement. Civil society organisations face growing challenges, from limited resources to changing political frameworks.

In times like these, the role of engaged communities and strong civil society networks becomes even more essential. This is what connects us as the international Naturefriends movement: our shared conviction that solidarity, sustainability, and social justice must remain at the centre of political and social action. Across our network, countless volunteers, local groups, and organisations create spaces where people can experience nature, build community, and work together for positive change. Their commitment gives strength and visibility to our common vision of a peaceful, fair, and sustainable future.

Looking back on 2025, we are proud of what we have achieved together. Climate justice remained a central focus of our work, and the continued support for the Climate Fund once again demonstrated the strength of international solidarity within our movement. The growing engagement of local and regional groups shows that our shared responsibility for global climate justice is firmly rooted throughout the network.

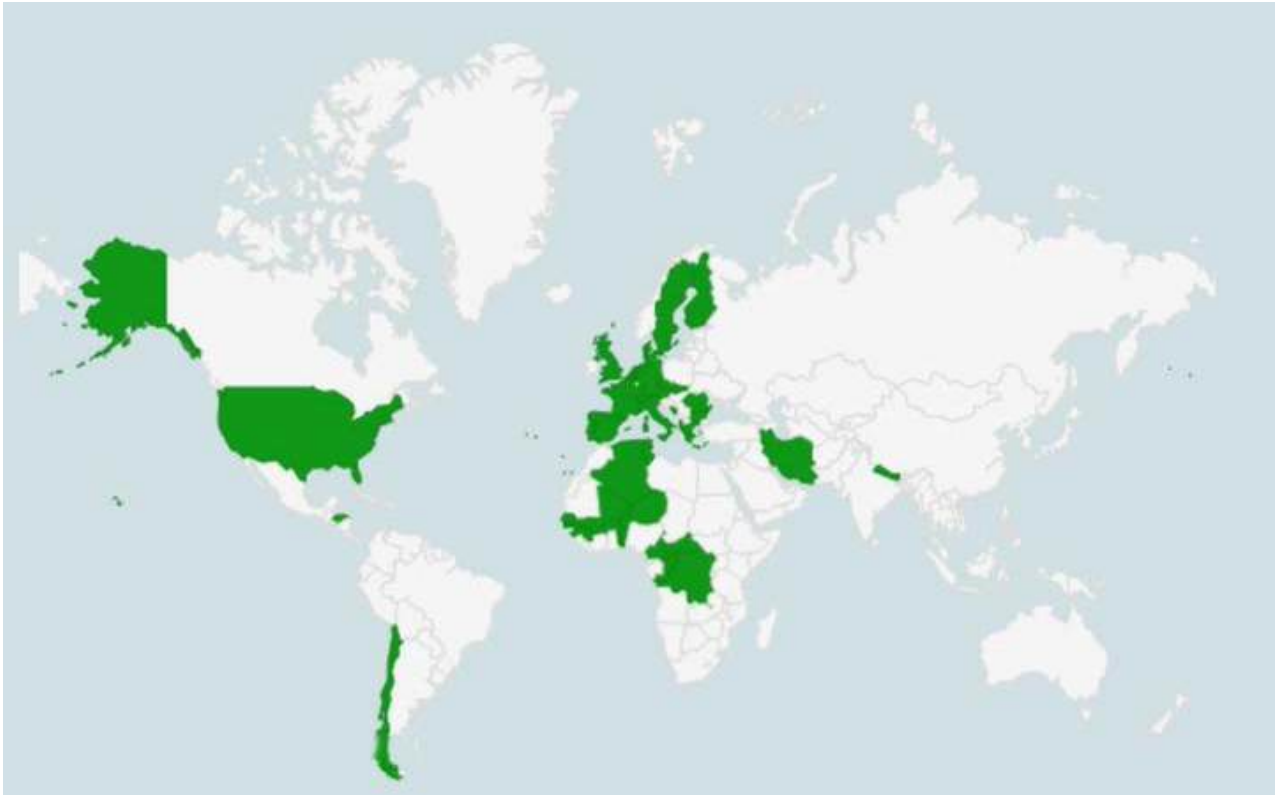
Every contribution helps to support concrete projects implemented by our African members and strengthens our common commitment to climate action and international cooperation. Another important focus of our activities in 2025 was the involvement of young people and the promotion of active participation. Through projects and events across different regions, young people were encouraged to engage with sustainability, volunteering, outdoor activities, and social responsibility. Whether through restoring hiking trails, participating in Climate Hikes, or connecting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with everyday leisure and sports activities, our initiatives aimed to turn values into practical experiences and collective action.

We would like to sincerely thank all members, volunteers, staff, partner organisations, and funding institutions who contributed to these achievements throughout the year. A special thank you to the many regional and local Naturefriends groups whose engagement, dedication, and creativity continue to shape our movement every day. Together, we are showing that solidarity across borders and generations is not only possible, but essential. Let us continue to move forward together with determination, confidence, and hope.



In solidarity,
Andrea Lichtenecker & Manfred Pils

Members & Networks



As the global umbrella organisation of the Naturefriends movement, NFI counts 41 members from 37 countries with a total of about 350.000 individual members.

NFI represents the interests of Naturefriends in European networks, such as the Green 10 - a network of the ten largest environmental organisations in Europe - and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB).

Green 10

Services, Policy Work & Public Relations

Our various services for our members focus on coordinating international campaigns and initiating good practice, and on supporting networking and exchange of experiences.

We provide information on current activities, and the developments within our network, send out information on topics relating to EU policies, and provide various online tools and educational material.

One highlight of the activities in 2025 was the 11th NFI Annual Conference, which was hosted by Naturefriends Romania on 28th September in their home city of Timisoara.



© NFI

The year 2025 marked a major milestone for NFI: 75 years since its official founding in 1950. This anniversary provided both a moment of celebration and an opportunity to reaffirm its long-standing mission through the following resolution:

“75 Years of Naturefriends International – 75 Years of Commitment to a Future worth Living”



To maintain strong communication with and among our members, we organised two online members' meetings during the year. These meetings provided a space to exchange updates on Naturefriends projects and activities, share developments in EU policy, and discuss current challenges and opportunities within the network.

In 2025, we also continued our online media and communication meetings, bringing together those responsible for communication, campaigns, and international affairs within our member organisations. These meetings aim to:

- strengthen information sharing and cooperation between the international office and member organisations;
- improve coordination of campaigns and strategic activities;
- enhance the visibility of the Naturefriends network and amplify our collective impact.

We had some very fruitful discussions, and we are delighted that so many organizations took this opportunity to showcase their activities and events.

Highlights from the NFI Annual Conference in Timisoara, Romania



© NFI

Our thematic groups on climate justice and sustainable tourism with participants from our members met regularly online. They focused on exchanging experiences, supporting and coordinating our work and developing international campaigns, such as a campaign on sustainability aspects of the Naturefriends Houses or fundraising campaigns for the Climate Fund.

In our policy work we focused on EU topics and closely cooperated with our European networks, especially the Green 10 and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB).

In 2025, the focus was again on the fight for strong legislation in the field of sustainability, nature, and climate and against the weakening of already agreed environmental and social standards.

On the NFI website we provide an overview on our current topics and activities, as well as on [news from the Naturefriends network](#). Updates from our Climate Fund projects and [interviews](#) with Naturefriends stakeholders can be found in special sections.

The website also hosts a [map](#) of the international Naturefriends Houses network presenting about 700 Naturefriends Houses worldwide.

A dedicated [News](#) section is available, and social media posts from the Naturefriends Houses campaign, linked directly to our Instagram account, can also be viewed just below the map.

In addition, our Climate Fund website is dedicated to the promotion of the concept of climate justice and of the [Naturefriends Climate Fund](#).



© NF Togo

More detailed information can be found in our monthly [newsletter](#), which features articles from the Naturefriends network, on topics such as tourism, sustainability, and the European environmental scene.

In addition, we promote and present the topics, concerns, and demands of the Naturefriends movement in our networks and via [press releases](#). Detailed information for our members is provided via the media group mailing list.

Verzeichnis der Naturfreundehäuser in Deutschland

Discover Naturefriends Germany's Catalogue of Naturefriends Houses

Your ultimate guide to nature-friendly stays in Germany! Naturefriends Germany (NaturFreunde Deutschlands) has recently unveiled the 27th edition of their highly anticipated catalogue, "Verzeichnis der Naturfreundehäuser in Deutschland". This updated guide features nearly 400 Naturefriends Houses scattered across Germany, offering a diverse array of accommodations for nature enthusiasts, outdoor adventurers, families, and anyone seeking an eco-friendly escape.

[read more](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Our social media presence across Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn has become a vital tool for promoting our activities, sharing our political positions, and disseminating information from our member organisations.

Together with our Facebook and Instagram channels dedicated to responsible tourism (respect_NFI), in 2025 we reached over 350 000 people.

NFI'S CURRENT NUMBERS - JUNE 2026



FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS:

3,040



INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS:

1,650



LINKEDIN FOLLOWERS:

403



BLUESKY

NEW ACCOUNT UNDER DEVELOPMENT

NFI ONLINE MEDIA

Website: www.nf-int.org

Naturefriends Houses: www.friendsofnaturehouses.net | www.naturfreunde-haeuser.net | www.maisonsdesamisdelanature.net

Naturefriends Climate Fund: www.climatefund.nf-int.org/en/

Newsletter: www.nf-int.org/newsletter

Facebook: facebook.com/nfint.org

Instagram: instagram.com/naturefriends_international

LinkedIn: [Naturefriends International](https://www.linkedin.com/company/naturefriends-international)

BlueSky: [naturefriendsint.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/naturefriendsint.bsky.social)

Youtube: youtube.com/nfi1895

RESPECT_NFI media on Sustainable Tourism

Infomail: nf-int.org/infomail

tourism_Log: tourismlog.wordpress.com

Facebook: facebook.com/respectNFI

Instagram: instagram.com/respect_nfi

International Campaigns

NATUREFRIENDS HOUSES CAMPAIGN

In January 2022, we kicked off a vibrant **social media campaign** to bring the charm and character of the Naturefriends Houses into the spotlight – and the response has been incredible. Since launching, the initiative has significantly boosted the visibility of these unique destinations, capturing the attention of both our Naturefriends community and the wider public.

The heart of this campaign is simple: to showcase Naturefriends Houses as inspiring, welcoming places to stay – whether you are a member or just passing by for the first time. By highlighting each house across our platforms, we are helping people uncover new destinations, share in the Naturefriends spirit, and understand that these special places are open to everyone.

But our campaign goes far beyond travel recommendations. A key focus is on sustainability. From green building practices to local environmental initiatives, we proudly spotlight how each house contributes to a more sustainable future. It is our way of celebrating the values that define us – and encouraging others to travel in a respectful way.

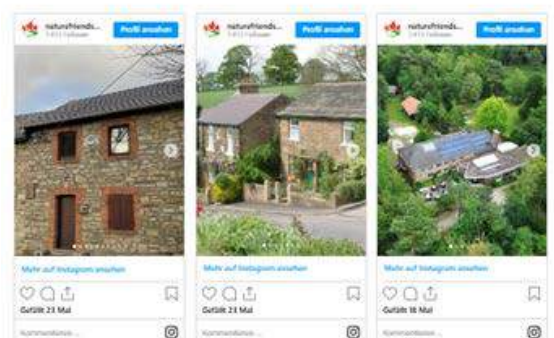
In 2025, we featured the stories of ten Naturefriends houses from different countries, highlighting their sustainability initiatives. You can find the links to these stories on our online map on the website, as well as on our Facebook and Instagram accounts. These posts are among the most shared, which shows us just how important these Naturefriends Houses are to our members.

We are thrilled with the momentum and deeply grateful to everyone who has liked, shared, commented, or drawn inspiration from our posts. Your support strengthens our mission and helps the Naturefriends Houses thrive.

NATUREFRIENDS HOUSES IN THE SPOTLIGHT! #NATUREFRIENDSHOUSES



Naturefriends Houses International



CLIMATE FUND CAMPAIGNS

“YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE GROWS IN AFRICA!”

Our annual Christmas Campaign for the Climate Fund has become a valued tradition within the Naturefriends community. Each year, it continues to gain momentum, with a growing number of member organisations joining the initiative and helping to amplify its impact.



We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who supported the campaign – your generosity directly supports sustainable projects that make a real difference on the ground.

We are also especially grateful to our member organisations for their vital role in promoting the campaign through their communication channels. Their continued engagement and outreach are key to the campaign’s growing success.

Thank you for being part of this collective mission towards a more sustainable future.

“1 EURO FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE” CAMPAIGN

In response to the interest expressed by Naturefriends groups in joining an international campaign for climate justice – as revealed by our 2023 members survey – we launched the “1 Euro for Climate Justice” campaign in March 2024.

The campaign invites Naturefriends groups from the Global North to donate 1 Euro per member annually to the Climate Fund. These contributions are directed without any deductions towards projects carried out by our African members that address the impacts of climate change and enhance the living conditions of local communities.

Our vision is to demonstrate the power of community-driven initiatives in combating climate change and to promote international solidarity.

Every euro donated goes directly to climate fund projects, with no administrative costs deducted. The projects are carefully selected and overseen by a steering group composed of representatives from our member organizations. Our members in African countries then implement these projects in collaboration with local communities.

We are therefore looking for interested Naturefriends groups who are willing to set a good example and commit to donating €1 per member per year to the Climate Fund.

Additionally, we encourage all groups to help us raise awareness and visibility for our collective commitment to climate justice through social media posts, events, and creative initiatives.

You can read more details about this:
climatefund.nf-int.org/1-euro-for-climate-justice

We are pleased that ten groups are now regularly supporting the projects of the Naturefriends Climate Fund:

- **NF Colombes (France)**
- **NF Italy**
- **NF München | OG Au/Wintersport (Germany)**
- **NF Chênée-Embourg (Belgium)**
- **Naturefriends Nienburg (Germany)**
- **Naturefriends Lyss (Switzerland)**
- **Friends of Nature UK**
- **Mountaineering Section of the Belgian (Flemish) Naturefriends**
- **NF Grenoble (France)**
- **NF Leverkusen (Germany)**

In addition, NF Netherlands (Nivon) and NF France committed to promoting the initiative among their members.

Thank you for setting a positive example, and we look forward to more groups joining this initiative.



The "1 Euro for Climate Justice" campaign represents a significant step towards climate justice and enhancing the visibility of the Naturefriends network.

By pooling our resources and efforts, we can make a substantial impact in the fight against the climate crisis and support those most affected by its consequences.

GLOBAL NATUREFRIENDS DAYS 2025: CELEBRATING NATURE & SOLIDARITY

Around the 16th of September - the founding day of the Naturefriends movement - we aim to highlight our shared ideals, exemplify solidarity, showcase the diversity and global reach of our movement, present best practices, and provide a platform for sharing experiences. **In 2025, the Global Naturefriends Days were held from 5th to 28th September, under the theme "Nature and Solidarity" and a special focus on NFI's 75th anniversary.**

This year, for the first time, we encouraged Naturefriends groups to organize a Climate Hike, and we're delighted that so many groups took up the challenge and shared their wonderful experiences from their Climate Hikes with us.



[Video NFI 75 years](#)

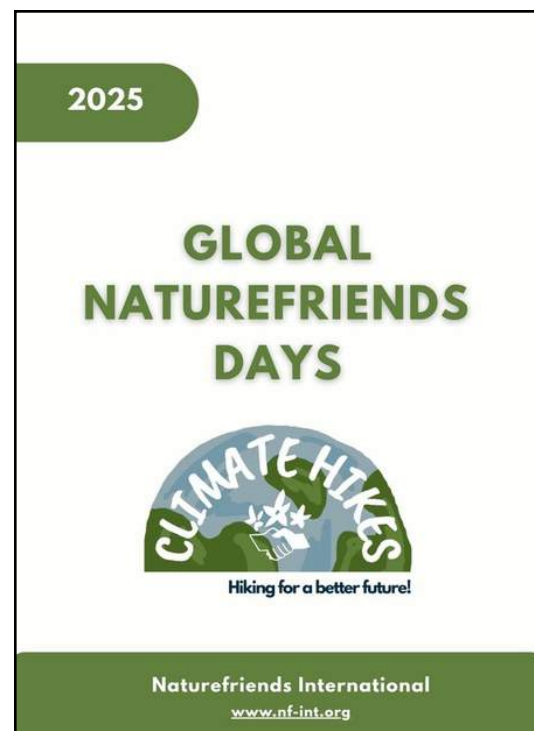


We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our members for their unwavering commitment and dedication to spreading the values of Naturefriends in their communities and around the world.

Your efforts continue to make a significant difference, promoting a healthier, more sustainable, and more connected world.

The goals of the Global Naturefriends Days:

- Communicating the diversity and the international dimension of the Naturefriends movement.
- Providing best practice and exchange of experiences.



You can read about all the activities:
[Global Naturefriends Days Report 2025](#)



Naturefriends celebrating Global Naturefriends Days 2025



Naturefriends Climate Fund

The Naturefriends Climate Fund is a powerful tool for driving positive change in the face of the climate crisis. By supporting innovative projects of Naturefriends in Africa, empowering communities, and fostering collaboration, the Climate Fund is helping to build a more sustainable and resilient future for the people living in the project regions.

At the same time, we offer all Naturefriends from the Global North the opportunity to make a solidarity-based contribution to more climate justice with a donation to the Climate Fund. 100% of donations benefit the people in the project regions in the Global South without deduction of administrative costs.

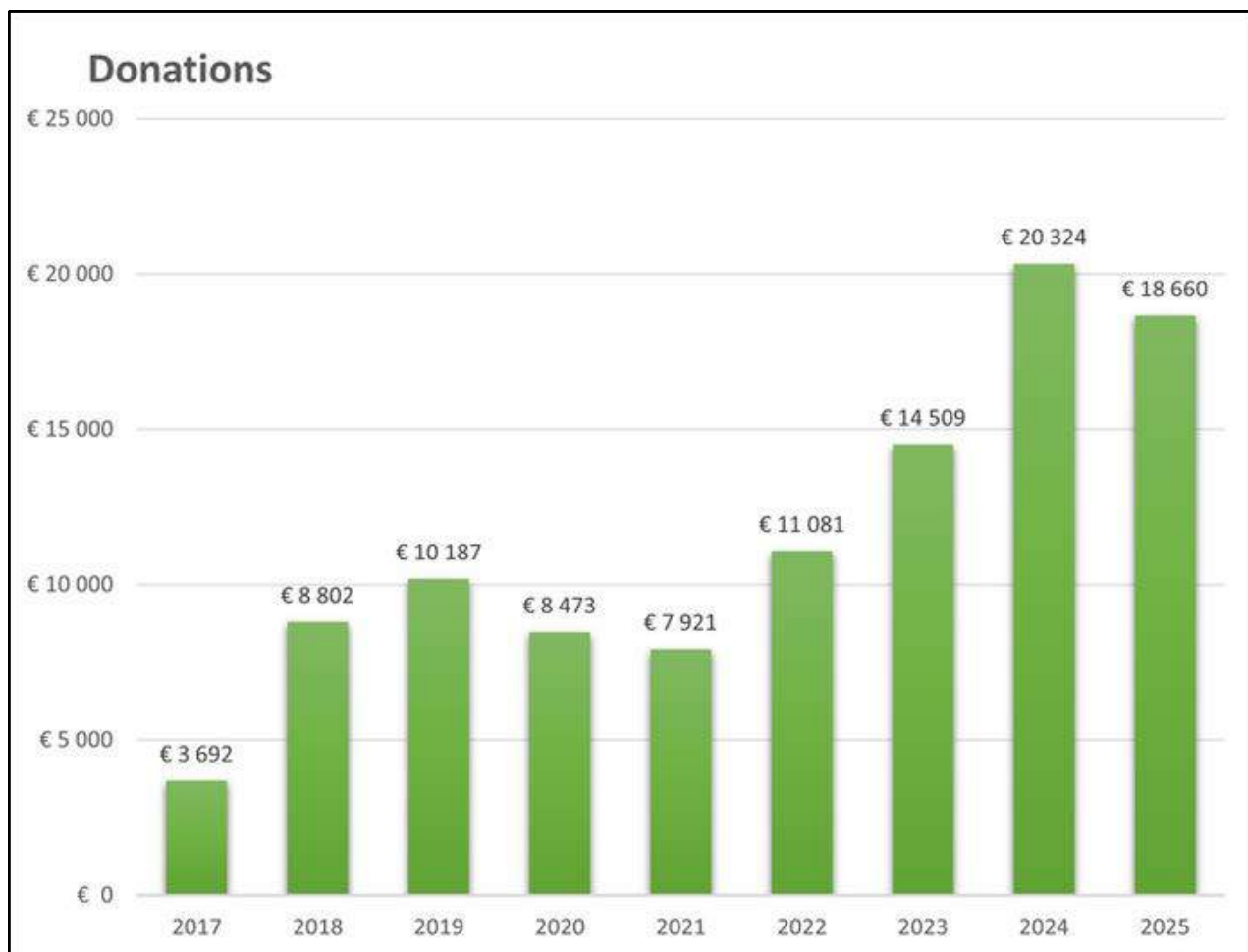
A dedicated website www.climatefund.nf-int.org serves as platform for showcasing Climate Fund projects, engaging stakeholders, and facilitating collaboration.



In addition to donations, there is also the possibility to offset emissions caused by air or car travel via the Climate Fund. This can be done by individuals as well as by member organisations or Naturefriends groups offering travel packages for their members. We are very pleased that the Vienna Naturefriends have been setting a good example here by including a mandatory contribution to the Climate Fund for all their air travel packages.

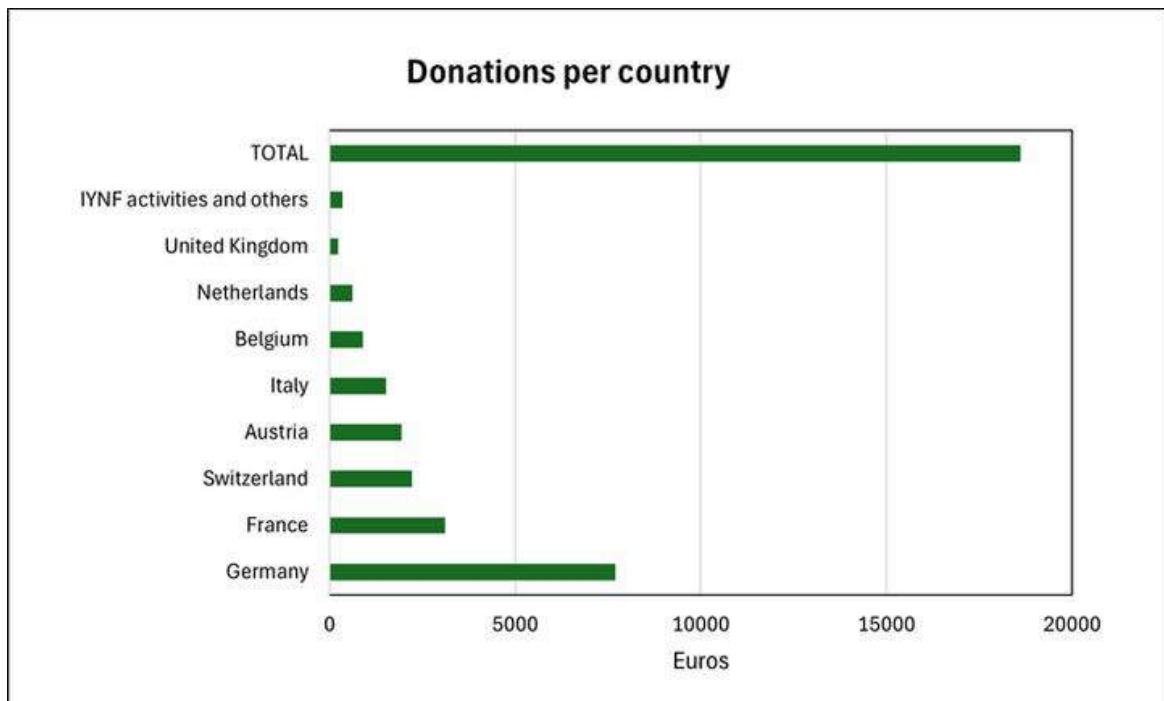
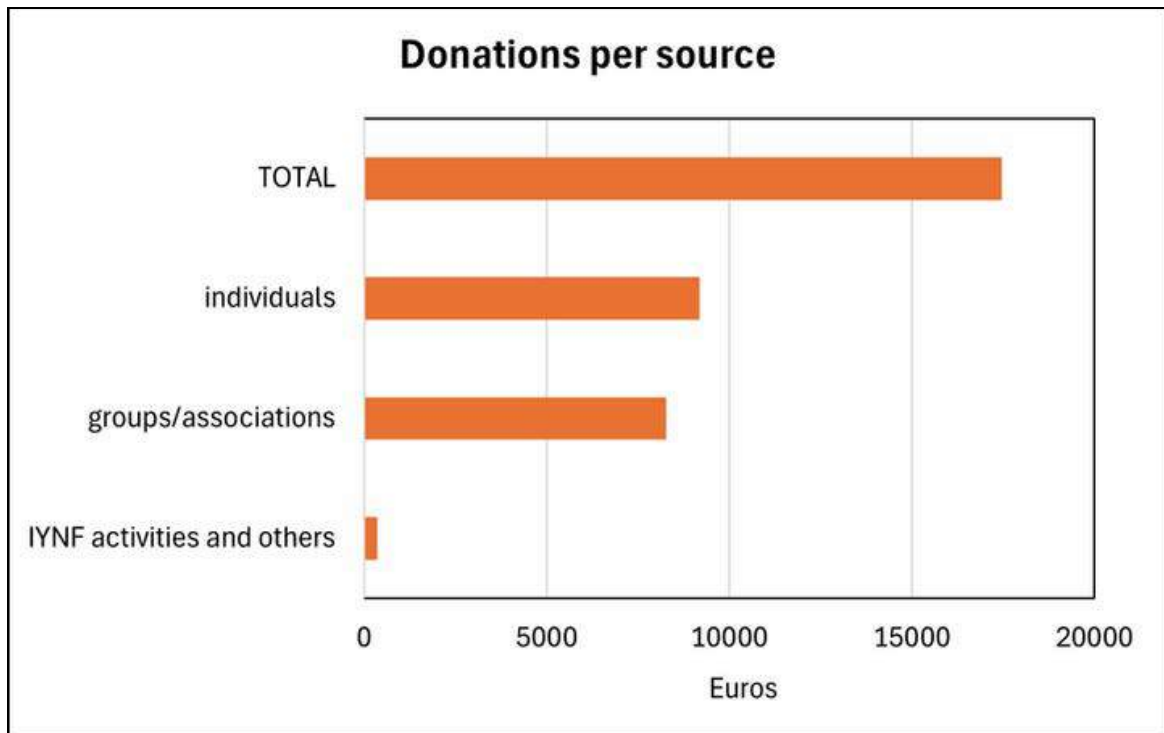
Our initiatives "Donating climate justice" by paying for a symbolic tree as well as our Christmas campaign "Your Christmas tree grows in Africa" turned out to be quite successful with a significant increase in donations.

Overview on donations and expenditures starting with the launch of the Naturefriends Climate Fund in January 2017



Expenditures for Climate Fund projects			
2017/2018	€ 6 680	Trees for Future	Senegal, The Gambia
2018/2019	€ 6 800	Improved Stoves	Guinea
2019/2020	€ 7 090	Food Security	Mali
2020	€ 4 805	Save Zio River	Togo
2020/2021	€ 8 780	Fruit Trees for Senegalese Villages	Senegal
2021	€ 3 421	Tree Plantings in the LOY*	Senegal, The Gambia
2022	€ 9 018	A tree nursery for Farako	Mali
2023	€ 5 000	Solar lights for Kpotomey	Benin
	€ 9 545	Tree Sponsorships	Senegal, The Gambia
2024	€ 5 667	Farako tree nursery - follow up	Mali
	€ 9 545	Tree Sponsorships	Senegal
2025	€ 3 534	Farako tree nursery - follow up	Mali
	€ 9 545	Tree Sponsorships	Senegal
	€ 3 437	Trees for Kpalimé	Togo

Overview of donations in 2025



FRUIT TREE PLANTING ACTION IN SENEGAL

In 2025, our reforestation initiative, funded by the NFI Climate Fund, focused on northwestern and southwestern regions, promoting climate awareness and food security through fruit tree planting with local communities.

Implementation areas

- Pilot villages: Merina Sine Ndiaye, Fordiokh, Keur Ngor
- Additional locations: Sékitaré, Tébéne, Keur Aly S Diaw, Keur Bam, Keur Bocar
- Horticultural Training Center of Thieppe, where a new Naturefriends group was established

Between 22nd May and 1st June, local communities planted 3,150 fruit trees (mango, lemon, cashew, and sapodilla), selected for their climate resilience and contribution to food security.

Educational workshops for children

Naturefriends Senegal (ASAN) organized outdoor climate workshops for elementary school pupils (ages 11-13), with 30 participants in each pilot village. The workshops focused on:

- Climate change awareness, including its causes, impacts, and possible actions
- Practical tree nursery skills, such as preparing potting soil, sowing seeds, repotting seedlings, and caring for young plants

The children were encouraged to become caretakers of the trees planted in their homes and villages.

Engaging adults and youth

Before planting activities, technicians held discussions with adults and young people on seedling care, watering, pruning, basin digging, and natural pest control. These sessions strengthened community ownership and helped ensure the long-term success of the project.

The project strengthened the Naturefriends network, increased climate awareness among children, and equipped communities with practical skills for sustainable tree management. We thank all donors to the Naturefriends Climate Fund for making this successful initiative possible.



© ASAN



© ASAN

Video: Plantings in Senegal - 2025



FARAKO TREE NURSERY PROJECT, MALI

Fruit tree planting activities in Abaladougou-Kenieba and Diaramana

Fruit tree seedlings from the Farako Nursery, financed by the Climate Fund, supported two reforestation campaigns organized by 2ADIB-MALI / Naturefriends Mali in July and August 2025 as part of its multi-year partnership with Naturefriends International.

Abaladougou-Kenieba

Following a coordination meeting on 30th June, a team of six Naturefriends Mali members travelled to Abaladougou-Kenieba, near the Guinean border, to carry out a planting campaign with students and staff of El Hadji Amadou Keita Elementary School.

A total of 200 fruit trees (100 mango and 100 orange trees) were planted in the school courtyard. Educational sessions highlighted environmental protection, climate change impacts, youth engagement, and sustainable behaviors. Participants also received practical guidance on caring for young trees.

Diaramana

On 23rd August, a second planting day took place at Lycée Privé Kalifa Sogoba in Diaramana, Koutiala region. With support from the local Naturefriends branch, 100 fruit trees (cinnamon apple, mango, orange, and guava) from the Farako Nursery were planted.

The event brought together students, local youth, an arborist, and Naturefriends representatives. Discussions focused on the value of fruit trees and the challenges of climate change. Participants were encouraged to see tree planting as an important tool for improving nutrition, combating desertification, and mitigating climate impacts.

The planting campaigns in Kenieba and Diaramana, together with the ongoing work of the Farako Nursery, demonstrate Naturefriends Mali's commitment to climate action, youth engagement, and sustainable development. We thank all partners, donors, and volunteers for their support and look forward to continuing this successful initiative.



© Naturefriends Mali



© Naturefriends Mali

[Video from the 2025 planting days](#)



TREES FOR KPALIMÉ

On 29th August 2025, Naturefriends Togo (Case Togo) officially launched the “Trees for Kpalimé” Arboretum Park project.

The inauguration brought together local authorities, partners, NGOs, youth, and students, demonstrating broad community support.

The two-year project will restore around seven hectares of land, including a 5-hectare arboretum in Kpalimé and a 2-hectare gallery forest along the Danyi River. The site will conserve endangered and native species while serving as a space for environmental education, research, and recreation.

The project supports local climate action efforts in response to rising temperatures, declining rainfall, and biodiversity loss. Students actively participated in the first planting activities.

The reforestation campaign continued on 12th September during the Global Naturefriends Days, with 1,022 additional seedlings planted. To date, 3,500 trees have been planted through the “Trees for Kpalimé” initiative.

A joint team from the municipality and Naturefriends Togo will oversee the maintenance and monitoring of the young trees to ensure their long-term survival.



© Naturefriends Togo



© Naturefriends Togo

[Video from the 2025 planting days](#)



2025 CLIMATE FUND IMPACT REPORT

In March 2026, we published the second comprehensive report on the impact of the Naturefriends Climate Fund. The report offers an overview of the Fund's purpose and activities, with a detailed account of all climate projects carried out in 2025 in Senegal, Mali and Togo.

It also highlights the year's key fundraising efforts, including the '1 Euro for Climate Justice' initiative and the Christmas campaign.

Additionally, the report provides a breakdown of all donations received since the Fund's inception in 2017, alongside a summary of climate actions implemented by our African Naturefriends partners.

The report is available in English, German, and French, and can be accessed here:

Naturefriends Climate Fund Impact Report 2025



Detailed information about all projects is provided on our Climate Fund website

 climatefund.nf-int.org

- [Fruit trees plantings in Farako, Mali](#)
- [Tree Sponsorships](#)
- [Trees for Kpalimé](#)

In addition, information about the ongoing projects and on the possibility to donate for the Climate Fund can be found in our newsletter on a regular basis.

You can obtain supplementary materials, such as brochures and illustrations about the Climate Fund, from our office.

Write to us at elena.teutsch@nf-int-org

Awareness raising for sustainable tourism

RESPECT_NFI PHOTOCALLENGE 2025

Moving in the right direction: your adventure by bus, train and bike!

This was again the motto of the third edition of our PhotoChallenge, which aimed to motivate travelers to choose environmentally friendly mobility options.

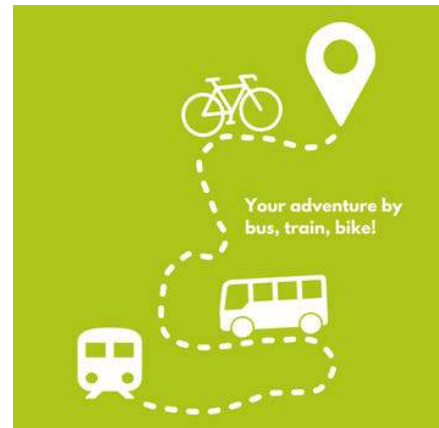
Discovering a region's natural and cultural treasures at every step. Exploring remote villages by bike. Silently gliding over a lake in a kayak. Chatting with locals on the bus... By bus, train or bike, you can experience nature, people and culture and protect the climate!

The submissions showcased a wide variety of travel experiences and demonstrated how sustainable mobility can create authentic, inspiring, and memorable adventures while opening new perspectives.

The best photographs were awarded attractive prizes, including vouchers for overnight stays in a Naturefriends House and vouchers for the web shops of Naturefriends Austria and Switzerland.

Take a look at the pictures here:

www.nf-int.org/photochallenge



© Jennifer Thiem



© Josef Hinterleitner



© Sabine Ebner

CONVERSATION CYCLE: HOW PERSONALITIES SHAPE SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Get to know the changemakers of tourism's sustainable future! In our online conversation cycle we embarked on a journey around the world and featured outstanding personalities who are putting their visions and ideas for a fair and sustainable tourism into practice.

In 2025 our first stop was Uzbekistan: in the heart of the Nuratau Range with mountains over 2,000 meters, located north of Samarkand, we visited the community-based-tourism project "Nuratau", which was initiated by local enthusiasts and guarantees travellers authentic experiences. Founded in 2008, the project focuses on the development of tourism packages that are associated with the needs and traditions of the local population. In addition to overnight stays in over 10 picturesquely situated family guesthouses in several villages, hiking tours, horse riding tours, adventure tours and cultural tours are offered.

Our second stop in Romania focused on the protection of Europe's last remaining primeval forests through sustainable tourism. Ciprian Costa from Romanian Naturefriends and photographer and activist Matthias Schickhofer shared insights into the challenges of illegal logging, ecological interconnections, and successful conservation initiatives such as the mapping of Domogled National Park.

Ciprian Costa provided practical perspectives from running a Naturefriends House and highlighted the importance of nature-based tourism as a space for encounter, education, and awareness-raising.

Both examples made clear: Sustainable, community-based tourism offers long-term economic opportunities for local communities and provides a viable alternative to the exploitation of natural resources.

Further reading on our TourismLog: [Sustainable tourism instead of logging](#)



© Matthias Schickhofer

[Watch the recordings on our YouTube channel](#)



RESPECT_NFI: WEBINAR-SERIES TRAVEL FOR CHANGE

Following a successful pilot phase, the webinar series "Travel for Change" has been continuing as a regular exchange and educational format connecting tourism schools from different countries. In March 2025, a webinar brought together students from the Faculty of Tourism in Ho Chi Minh City and students from the Tourism School Semmering.

The initiative aims to provide insights into sustainable tourism practices in different parts of the world. At the same time, it encourages intercultural dialogue and strengthens mutual understanding of global challenges and interconnections within tourism.

CLIMATE DREAMS - TRAVELLING WITH A VISION AND RESPONSIBILITY

We were glad to cooperate with Young Austrian Naturefriends in the framework of their Climate Dreams Tour: In July, eight young people travelled across all Austrian provinces over the course of 16 days using their feet, bikes or public transport. Along the way, they engaged in vivid discussions with local people and collected their "climate dreams" for a good future.

For each climate dream, 1 Euro was donated for our Climate Fund project in Mali this way linking awareness raising with a concrete contribution to climate justice. The whole trip was accompanied by a social media campaign promoting climate action and sustainable travelling and communicating a selection of climate dreams from people from Austria as well as from the project region in Mali. We supported the development of the project concept, joined the tour on several days and contributed a workshop on sustainable tourism and a Climate Hike.

More details and a lot of photos from the tour are available on our website at: nf-int.org/en/themen/aktivitaeten/klimatraume-tour-2025

ROUNDTABLE HUMAN RIGHTS IN TOURISM

Since 2012, we are a member of the "Roundtable Human Rights in Tourism", an international multi-stakeholder initiative promoting human rights. For us, the Roundtable is an important network for exchanging ideas and good practices with the tourism industry, other NGOs and academia.

NFI is the Roundtable's contact point in Austria - we support the Austrian members, coordinate public relations and press work and offer members and interested tourism enterprises information material and know-how regarding the implementation of respect for human rights in tourism practice.



www.humanrights-in-tourism.net

All mentioned activities in the field of sustainable tourism are part of our program "Reisen mit Respekt" (Travelling respectfully) funded by the Austrian Development Agency.

Pilot projects

RESPECT NATURE - EXPERIENCING NATURE IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY

The Respect Nature campaign, implemented in partnership with Naturefriends Austria and funded by the Österreichische Bundesforste AG (Austrian Federal Forests), encourages to act responsibly when enjoying nature. Whether hiking, biking, or ski touring, respectful behavior helps protect both wildlife and plant life – and ensures that outdoor spaces remain welcoming for everyone seeking relaxation.

In 2025, our campaign placed a strong focus on communication. Different interests, levels of knowledge and perspectives can easily lead to misunderstandings or conflicts – whether during mountain tours, while searching for parking lots, or when dealing with litter. We all experience situations in which differing expectations and kinds of use of outdoor spaces cause tension. Together with our cooperation partners, we therefore organized a workshop on good communication in difficult situations. Building on the insights and experiences shared during this workshop, a guideline was developed to support respectful and constructive communication, even in challenging situations – ultimately benefiting all stakeholder groups involved.

So far, the guideline is [available in German](#) both online on the project website and in a printed version.

In addition, we continued our activities tackling the awareness of littering, such as public clean-ups or social media campaigns.



© NFI



© NFI

www.nf-int.org/respect-nature

#WeRespectNature

SDGS IN MOTION: EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH ACTION

Our SDGs-in-Motion project – carried out in cooperation with Austrian Young Naturefriends and funded by the Austrian Development Agency – aims to bring the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to life – and to inspire young people to act for a good future. At the heart of the initiative is the belief that sustainability can be meaningfully integrated into leisure activities, making the SDGs more accessible and relevant to everyday life.

The 2025 highlights were eight pilot projects carried out by young people – from a concert on a melting glacier in the Hohe Tauern National Park to a workshop on mental health for young activists.

The experiences and outcomes of the project were showcased at a public conference in autumn 2025 in Graz with a very positive response both from the participants as well as from political stakeholders.

To support others in launching similar initiatives, we created a guideline on linking awareness raising for the SDGs with sports and leisure activities for young people (available in German on the project website and in a printed version).

www.nf-int.org/en/themen/welive-sdgs/aktivitaeten/sdgs-motion



© NFI



© NFI

CLIMATE HIKES

Funded by EU (Erasmus+)

Linking guided hikes to awareness raising for climate issues is the aim of our CLIMATE HIKES project, carried out together with German Young Naturefriends, Fros Multisport Vlaanderen and our member ATB Belgium, and Ecosystem Europe (Bulgaria).

In 2025 the focus of the project was on creating good practice by implementing pilot hikes and on disseminating the project concept and outcomes within our network and beyond. Our CLIMATE HIKES guideline and a collection of methods, both available on our website in various languages, are designed to support Naturefriends groups in implementing their own CLIMATE HIKE.

Our highlight was the successful implementation of various CLIMATE HIKES by several Naturefriends groups in the framework of the Global Naturefriends Days 2025. Although the project officially ended at the end of 2025, we will continue with the promotion of CLIMATE HIKES as a valuable tool communicating climate justice in the framework of Naturefriends hikes.

More information, link to news and inspiration via [Padlet](https://padlet.com/naturefriends-international) and downloads:

nf-int.org/climatehikes



© NFI



© FROS Multisport Vlaanderen

TRAILS

Funded by EU (Erasmus+)

A well-developed network of hiking trails forms the basis of mountain tourism. In many cases, the maintenance of these trails is done by volunteers, but unfortunately the number of people doing this work is decreasing. At the same time, trail maintenance is becoming increasingly expensive, and the growing interest of the population in spending time outdoors is putting additional pressure on the trail infrastructure.

Young people are rare in volunteering for trail maintenance, although this activity allows them to improve their connection with nature and with other volunteers and at the same time gain valuable technical knowledge.

The TRAILS project, which we implemented under the lead of our C-member OTI Slovakia and in cooperation with Austrian Naturefriends and the Mountaineering Association of Serbia, was designed to tackle this problem. The focus was on sharing experiences in trail maintenance and developing strategies on how to involve young people in trail maintenance.

In addition to various good practice events, we carried out a joint Social Media campaign highlighting the positive aspects of volunteering for young people.

A lot of inspiration and all reports are available at our website.

www.nf-int.org/trails



© NFI



© FROS Multisport Vlaanderen

OUR BOARD

Manfred Pils – President



Mamadou Mbodji – Vice President

Wilfried Meulenbergs – Vice President



Ursula Vetter – Vice President

Clara Wengert – Vice President & Cashier



Sebastian Jaquiéry – Vice President

Sina Franz – IYNF Representative



People

OUR TEAM

Andrea Lichtenecker – Executive Director



Elena Teutsch – Member Services, Climate Fund & Public Relations

Kim Ferguson – Sustainable outdoor recreation & Environmental education



Anna Kodek – Sustainable Tourism Development & Development Cooperation

Linus Scoz – Sustainable outdoor recreation



Samuel Edler – Project Assistance & Social Media

Thomas Wicander - Temporary employment for the working area 'Sustainable tourism development'.
Emma Kluger - Intern for the working area 'Sustainable tourism development'.