

GREENPEACE IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



GREENPEACE



Greenpeace worldwide

Greenpeace in Central and Eastern Europe

Table of Contents

02 Introduction
Alexander Egit's look back at the year 2020

03 Greenpeace in Central and Eastern Europe
International, non-violent and independent action

06 Climate & Energy
Clean energy for a healthy climate

10 Forests
Intact forests provide the foundation for biodiversity

14 Oceans
Our oceans are vital for humans, animals and nature

18 Sustainable Consumption
Choosing a better world, daily

20 Agriculture
Sustainable agriculture as the basis for a sustainable future

22 Pandemic & Environment
Environmental destruction and pandemics go hand in hand

24 Our Ships
Lockdown at high sea

26 The People Behind Greenpeace
It is your support that makes our work possible

28 Greenpeace in Numbers
Clarity and transparency – this is how we use your donations

Introduction

Report by the Executive Director



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“Corona blew plans and habits out of the water for us, too. But quick responses and professional handling of crises of all kinds are among our strengths, and we were able to continue with our work in a seamless manner. Even if we missed the direct, immediate exchange, we were able to discover new avenues for ourselves and lead strong, successful campaigns for the environment in 2020.”

Dear Readers,

the pandemic highlights one of the underlying principles of our work: The exploitation of nature has its limits. Greedy for raw materials, corporations and governments are venturing deeper and deeper into unexplored wilderness and destroying ecosystems. As a result, the risk of dangerous viruses being transmitted from animals to humans is increasing as well. Globalized economies and obscure supply chains add to this danger. Last but not least, industrial factory farming provides ideal conditions for the spread of diseases as well as the development of antibiotic resistances.

Corona dominated public debates last year. But with our persistent efforts, we ensured that the ongoing climate and biodiversity crises were not sidelined. Let me tell you about some of our major successes:

For example, over 8,000 Austrians joined the climate lawsuit before the Constitutional Court. Together with Greenpeace, these people stood up for their right to a livable future. In parliament, too, we showed what citizens can achieve if they act collectively: With our support, around 380,000 signatures were gathered for the climate referendum.

Exposing scandals

One of Greenpeace's core tasks is to investigate environmental scandals. In 2020, for example, we used a special camera to discover methane gas leaks at OMV and Gas Connect Austria plants that were invisible to the naked eye and harmful to the climate.

Greenpeace Austria also uncovered an international scandal: In Malaysia, we found toxic and illegally exported plastic waste originating from Austria. It will now be disposed of properly after all.

In our campaign against the plastic flood, we were able to reach another stage of success. As a result of our work, even stubborn neglecters of reusable options such as Coca-Cola and Lidl promised to make more efforts towards efficient reusable systems.

Our ocean campaign hit a rough patch in 2020: For years, we had been advocating for a comprehensive UN high-seas conservation treaty, which would represent a huge milestone in marine protection. However, due to the pandemic, the final negotiations were postponed until 2021. With expeditions stretching from the North Sea all the way to Antarctica, we still made the most of the year and collected further arguments for a strong treaty. In the process, we also discovered that industrial fishing fleets were unabashedly using the slipstream of the pandemic for even greater raids. Our plea, which is already supported by more than 30 governments around the world, remains unequivocal: 30 percent of the world's oceans must be protected by 2030.

Bringing about change

Major consumer goods companies such as Nestlé, Unilever and Mondelez had promised to ban forest destruction from their supply chains by 2020. However, our analyses show that the global destruction of virgin forests has become even more dramatic. The corporations have failed. In the EU, legislation on global forest protection could bring about far-reaching changes in 2021. Over a million people across Europe joined us in speaking out in support of forest protection – a record turnout!

Even during this difficult year, we were able to achieve some great successes, keeping our cause high on the political agendas. We adapted our methods and ways of working to the circumstances and thus kept our momentum. This is how we are approaching the next year as well, hoping for a new start in both our personal daily lives and our society as a whole.

Alexander Egit,
Executive Director of Greenpeace in Central and Eastern Europe



© Marten van Dijk/Greenpeace

Greenpeace in Central and Eastern Europe

Since 2000, the offices of Greenpeace Austria have also been the headquarters for Greenpeace in Central and Eastern Europe. We are responsible for the development and expansion of Greenpeace's work in Hungary, Croatia, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Slovakia.

United for environment and climate

In our efforts to combat global warming, the destruction of biodiversity, chemical and nuclear hazards and much more, transnational cooperation is essential. Our collaborative efforts in Central and Eastern Europe, for example, have resulted in the vast majority of Eastern European countries becoming GMO-free.

The greatest challenge, however, is global warming. It is being further exacerbated by the coal industry, which is still prevalent in some Eastern European countries. Preventing and closing coal mines is at the heart of our work in this region. The fact that there is now a broad debate on phasing out coal in this region, too, and that there are already specific plans in place in some countries – these are all results of our campaigns.

Another focus of our joint work in Central and Eastern Europe is the protection of virgin forests in Romania and Poland.

International, non-violent, independent

- With our persistent campaigns, we work to promote solutions for an ecological and peaceful future worldwide. The goal is to achieve results that meet high social, ecological and economic criteria.
- We use a variety of nonviolent methods such as spectacular, creative actions, public relations work, scientific studies, lobbying and advocacy, as well as legal and political work. In recent years, our online channels have become an increasingly powerful medium that we use to mobilize tens of thousands of people in support of environmental protection.
- As an independent organization, Greenpeace does not accept any financial contributions from companies, the public sector, political parties or international institutions. Since we are incorruptible, we always retain our agency and freedom of choice, allowing us to use the most effective means to achieve our goals.



Climate & Energy

Lawsuits, strikes and referendums

When people join forces and campaign for more climate protection together, they can achieve great things – as impressively demonstrated in 2020. For example, more than 8,000 Austrians joined the climate lawsuit before the Constitutional Court. Together with Greenpeace, they stood up for a right to a secure future. Incredible, but it's true: Even today, there are still laws that fuel the climate crisis instead of fighting it. One example of this is the kerosene tax exemption: It helps make air travel cheaper than trains. And all of this despite the fact that flying is three times more harmful than taking the train. The Constitutional Court rejected the complaint on debatable formal grounds, but environmental lawyer Michaela Krömer is not admitting defeat yet. Together with one of the plaintiffs, Mex M., she is now taking the case to the European Court of Human Rights. Mex M. suffers from multiple sclerosis and his symptoms worsen when the weather gets hotter. He is now fighting for more climate protection – not only for himself, but also for all people suffering from the effects of the climate crisis.

Not only in court but also in parliament, it is becoming clear how much citizens can achieve through their commitment: Around 380,000 signatures were collected for the climate petition. The demands of the climate referendum were included in a resolution passed by the governing parties in March 2021, which is something to be proud of: It promises the creation of a climate cabinet, a citizens' council and an ambitious climate protection law. Greenpeace will not cease to demand that these promises be kept in the coming months.

The youth of Fridays for Future regularly reminded politicians that the climate crisis must not be neglected, even in the pandemic year 2020. Whether through online strikes, demonstrations with strict hygiene measures or candlelight vigils – the strong youth movement found creative solutions to make the climate crisis heard. The motto for 2021 remains the same: Working together for a better, climate-friendly future!



Top: Flights are still favored over environmentally friendly alternatives in terms of taxation.

© Lorraine Turci/Greenpeace

Bottom: Greenpeace, together with 8,060 Austrians – including climate researcher Helga Kromp-Kolb and organic farmer Gerhard Zoubek – filed a complaint at the Constitutional Court.

© Mitja Kopal/Greenpeace



JASMIN DUREGGER
Climate & Energy Expert
Greenpeace Austria

© Mitja Kopal/Greenpeace

Dirty secrets uncovered

One of Greenpeace's main tasks is to expose environmental scandals of all kinds. This includes, of course, the oil and gas industry's greenwashing attempts. Actually changing their course is the last thing that they would do. Speaking of gas: Historically, gas has always had the reputation of being the lesser evil among fossil fuels. This is because of its lower combustion emissions compared to coal or oil. The problem is that for some years now, research has been showing that methane, which is extremely harmful to the climate, escapes along the entire supply chain – from extraction and transport to storage. Together with the CO₂ emissions generated during combustion, gas is therefore hardly better – and in some cases even worse – than coal in terms of climate protection.

EXPOSED BY GREENPEACE

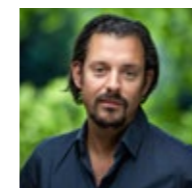
For the first time, Greenpeace has been able to capture images of climate-damaging gas leaks that are invisible to the naked eye at OMV and Gas Connect Austria plants using a specially manufactured camera made by the company FLIR. As a result, Greenpeace discovered numerous methane leaks and exposed the oil giants' dirty secret.

Greenpeace also holds OMV CEO Rainer Seele accountable at every opportunity. In 2020, when he was summoned as part of the Ibiza Committee, our activists met him in front of the Hofburg. The yellow climate activists' banners read: "The future also has questions, Mr. Seele!"



When OMV CEO Rainer Seele was summoned to the Ibiza committee, we met him in front of the Hofburg and demanded he also address climate protection issues.

© Astrid Schwab/Greenpeace



ADAM PAWLOFF
Climate & Energy Expert
Greenpeace Austria

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Mobility ranking

How do you travel in your day-to-day life? Do you use public transport, a bicycle or do you even walk? Do you still drive a car? This decision depends not only on personal preferences, but also on the surrounding circumstances. For its traffic ranking of the country's capitals, Greenpeace assessed choice of transport, air quality, cycling, public transport, parking management, pedestrian convenience and alternative car use. As was the case in 2017, Vienna landed in first place with a rating of "good". Vienna scores particularly well because its residents choose climate-friendly modes of transport more often.

However, it still has some work to do in the area of air quality. Bregenz and Innsbruck came second with a rating of "satisfactory". Eisenstadt came in last. There is room for improvement in every capital city, however. Greenpeace is clearly directing its demands to politicians, who are the ones responsible for creating the infrastructure for the transport revolution. Only if climate friendly means of transport are fast, inexpensive, convenient and reliable will they be accepted by the population at large. In its new government program, Austria has set itself the goal of becoming climate neutral by 2040. And yet, greenhouse gas emissions have risen by 74.4 percent since 1990 in the transport sector alone, which accounts for around one third of total emissions. It's high time for a U-turn!



Since 1990, greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sector alone are up 74.4 percent.

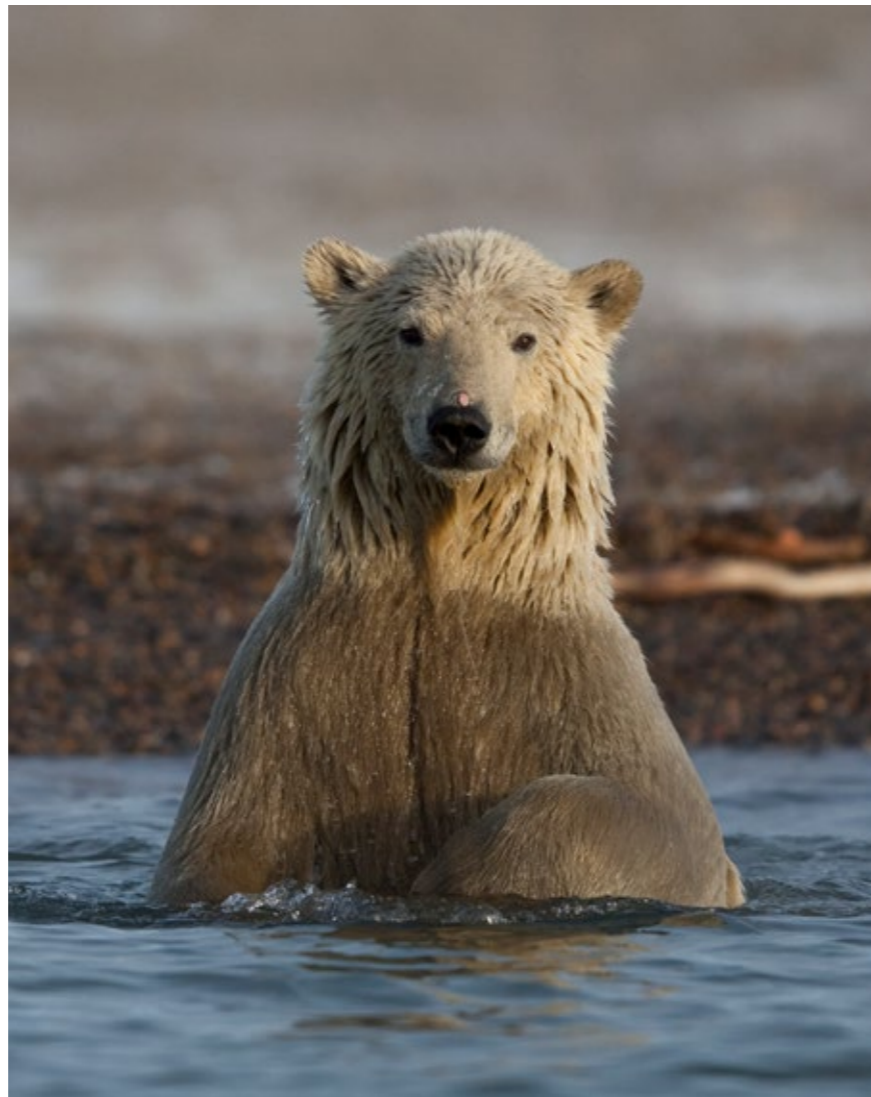
© Mitja Kopal/Greenpeace

Ecological tax reform

Did you know that the richest ten percent of Austrian households emit more CO₂ than the poorest ten percent in total only with their everyday mobility and their vacations? Across all sectors, the richest cause four times as many emissions as the poorest.

This and other inequalities were highlighted in a report by Greenpeace in Austria. It also shows how the urgently needed and long overdue ecosocial reform of the tax system can be made to be socially just. By imposing a tax on emissions and redistributing part of the revenue evenly across all households by means of an eco-reward, environmentally damaging behavior will come at a price. This gives everyone an incentive to behave more ecologically, and at the end of the day, the poorest in our society are better off than before. Greenpeace is thus making an important contribution to the ongoing political debate. The coalition agreement also clearly lays out several steps to bring about a greener tax system. So far, however, implementation has been slow. Thanks to pressure from Greenpeace and the climate movement, momentum is now slowly building in the negotiations.

Overall, Greenpeace has repeatedly acted side by side with the climate movement to demand more from the government in terms of climate protection. This was also the case at the government retreat held by the coalition in early summer. Together with Fridays for Future and the climate referendum movement, Greenpeace handed over a list of demands and a symbolic globe to Vice Chancellor Werner Kogler, Climate Minister Leonore Gewessler and State Secretary Magnus Brunner. The government should bring forward ecosocial tax reform, abolish subsidies that are harmful to the climate and introduce a climate check for all laws and government investments. While some measures are still a long time coming, the persistence of Greenpeace and the climate movement is slowly yielding results.



Top: Together with Fridays for Future and the Climate Referendum Initiative, Greenpeace hands over a list of demands and a symbolic globe to Vice Chancellor Kogler, Climate Minister Leonore Gewessler and State Secretary Brunner.

© Mitja Kobal/Greenpeace

Bottom: Like humans, polar bears are reliant on an intact climate.

© Rose Sjölander/70°

Towards the energy transition at full speed!

The campaign against coal in Central and Eastern Europe remains a top priority for Greenpeace. This is because the particularly polluting resource continues to play a major role in the energy supply here. This means further heating of the climate, further air pollution, further poisoning of the groundwater and the associated health hazards for people. But Greenpeace made significant progress once again in 2020.

As in 2019, the focus was particularly on Poland. We were able to expand on our success with the Rainbow Warrior, a Greenpeace ship in action in Gdansk in 2019. There, we shattered the myth of Poland's self-sufficiency in coal by exposing coal imports from Africa. In June, activists protested on the concrete tower of the Ostrołęka C power plant construction site, which is over a hundred meters high. Planned as a coal-fired power plant, it is now to become a gas-fired power plant instead. However, we also want to prevent the mere replacement of one form of fossil energy with another. In September, after a long, patient campaign together with local communities and initiatives including protests and proceedings, we put an end to the planned open-pit lignite mine in Ościslowo. The operator ZE PAK announced in September that it was withdrawing, the official reason being negative external factors such as rising prices for CO₂ emissions and the EU's increased reduction targets for greenhouse gas emissions. This shows that public pressure is working and even coal operators are starting to realize that coal has an expiration date.



"Coal, gas, climate crisis" says the huge banner at a Greenpeace action against the expansion of a gas-fired power plant, hanging 100 meters high.

© Greenpeace

The next success came as early as November: Plans for the Imielin Pólnoc open-pit coal mine were completely set back to square one. After an alliance between Greenpeace and the residents of surrounding villages objected, an environmental impact assessment that had already been passed but was questionably carried out was withdrawn again.

All in all, we can say: The coal phaseout in the traditional coal country Poland has come into sight for the first time, all thanks to extensive campaign work!

In coal states Romania and Bulgaria, too, things are moving forward. Our main focus lies on social justice. For one thing, we target the energy companies, which are intertwined with corruption. On the other hand, we work keeping in mind that people whose lives are linked to coal have to be able to make a fair transition to other jobs. But Greenpeace also revealed the consequences associated with coal energy: A study showed how Bulgaria's Bobov Dol coal-fired power plant degrades air and water quality with pollution caused by ash, metal and metalloid residues. For Bulgaria, a country already experiencing water shortages, this once again clearly shows that coal has no future, as it not only consumes too much water, but also pollutes it.

And finally, a nice success in Hungary: The last remaining coal-fired power plant there, Mátra, will close. This means that the nearby open-pit lignite mine also received an expiration date, as the transport of lignite is unprofitable due to its poor mass-to-energy ratio. This means: The Hungarian coal phase-out is practically secured by 2025!



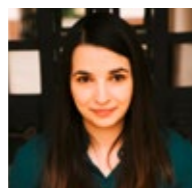
The last coal-fired power plant in Hungary, Mátra, will soon be closed for good.

© Bence Jardany/Greenpeace



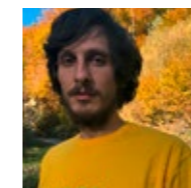
JASMIN DUREGGER
Climate & Energy Expert
Greenpeace Austria

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JOANNA FLISOWSKA
Climate & Energy Expert
Greenpeace Poland

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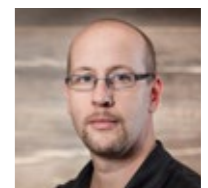
VLAD CATUNA
Climate & Energy Expert
Greenpeace Romania

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DENITZA PETROVA
Office Director Greenpeace Bulgaria

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ANDRAS PERGER
Climate & Energy Expert
Greenpeace Hungary

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Forests

Forests and peatlands are the largest carbon reservoirs on land. Worldwide, they bind and store around 800 billion tons of CO₂. This makes them essential for a stable climate. The Amazon alone stores up to 120 billion metric tons of carbon – about as much as the total amount of greenhouse gases emitted by all EU countries in 26 years.

From Brazil ...

However, the Amazon rainforest has recently shrunk by around 17 percent. Scientists assume that if the forest loses 20 percent of its area, it will also lose its important function as a climate protector. Nevertheless, the largest rainforest on our planet is being destroyed at a rapid pace. From August 2019 to July 2020, over 600 million trees were cut down.

Illegal slash-and-burn land clearing continues to make room for new plantations and farms, as we were able to demonstrate in a report in 2020. Studies show that the EU-Mercosur trade pact would further accelerate deforestation in South America. Increasing beef exports to the EU alone would cause forest destruction to increase by 25 percent annually. Greenpeace is therefore campaigning against this destructive trade pact. We must not allow any tactical maneuvers to get the trade pact through the decision-making process against all odds. The EU could try this, for example, with a toothless despatch note promising climate protection, or by “splitting” the trade part from the rest of the agreement. Greenpeace is campaigning against these unfair methods and demands that the Austrian government impose its veto against the trade pact, which has already been agreed upon in 2019, without compromise.

... to Russia and Indonesia ...

In Russia and Indonesia, too, large parts of the forests were burning again in 2020. In Russia, we deployed our firefighting teams to combat the flames. Many of the fires there are a result of global warming, while the fires in Indonesia and Brazil are actively started by people in order to enable the expansion of palm oil, paper and pulp plantations. In Indonesia, for example, an incredible 25 million hectares of forest have been destroyed since 1990 – an area the size of Great Britain!



Top: In Vienna, a demonstration for the Amazon rainforest brought forest fires directly to the Karlsplatz with a spectacular 3D projection.

© Mitja Kobal/Greenpeace

Middle: The jaguar's habitat is threatened.

© Leandro Cagliano/Greenpeace

Bottom: Illegally set fires are still irretrievably destroying the rainforest in Brazil.

© Christian Braga/Greenpeace



LUKAS MEUS
Biodiversity Expert
Greenpeace in Austria

© Mitja Kobal/Greenpeace

Papua, the Indonesian part of New Guinea, is home to the largest area of untouched rainforest in Indonesia. There are still 34.3 million hectares of rainforest preserved out of a total area of 41.1 million hectares. But this could change in the future. Papua is currently at the forefront of palm oil companies' efforts to open up new plantations, with fatal consequences for people and animals. Of all the plantation companies, Korindo has been the most aggressive in expanding its concessions in Papua. In 2020, we were able to expose the company's machinations with large-scale research which brought them to the attention of the general public.

EXPOSED BY GREENPEACE

A Greenpeace investigation indicates that the Indonesian-Korean company Korindo intentionally set fires in Papua in order to convert rainforest areas into palm oil plantations. For the time being, this has had no consequences for the group's business: Korindo continues to obtain FSC certifications for supposedly sustainable wood.

... to Europe.

The EU Commission intends to propose a bill on global forest protection in 2021. We see this as a significant opportunity for the conservation of global forests and last year, we launched broad mobilization campaigns on this issue. As part of the public hearings on this proposal, we were able to join other organizations in getting over a million people in Europe to voice their support for the protection of global forests – a record turnout!

We will carry this momentum into the next year and continue to pursue our goal: We need a strong EU law that prevents products from global forest destruction from reaching the EU market – no ifs, ands or buts. This is the only way we can protect the remaining primeval forests of the planet, the habitat of many animals, and thus also all of us, against the climate crisis.



Top: Forest fires are also a massive problem in Russia.

© Julia Petrenko/Greenpeace

Middle: In Indonesia, rainforest is being cleared for palm oil plantations.

© Greenpeace

Bottom: These doves live in the endangered forests of Papua.

© Bernard Van Eiegem/Greenpeace

Protecting old forests – and creating new ones!

Greenpeace pressed ahead with the protection of Romania's forests in 2020. The focus was on campaigning against illegal logging. The increasing violence against forest conservationists in recent years remains a cause for concern. The successes of our efforts are all the more important: Illegal logging now poses much higher risks, as Greenpeace was able to achieve important changes in the law on forest protection. These increase transparency and close legal loopholes. Among them was the introduction of the tracing system for the European Timber Regulation. This system makes it possible to collect data on forestry, management, transport and stockpiles to determine whether timber is being taken illegally from the forest. Complementary programs were launched to empower citizens to cooperate directly with police and forest rangers. Greenpeace is now also part of a Ministry of Environment and Forests working group against illegal logging.

However, not only the protection of old but also the creation of new forests is possible. Within a very short time, the "Green Barrier" campaign became one of the most successful ones in Romania. It combines forest and climate protection: After all, the creation of tree-rich areas near cities improves the quality of life and air as well as the urban microclimate. Within the first four months, 100,000 people signed the petition for such green barriers. The government decided to put one billion euros from the EU Corona recovery fund into ecosystem regeneration measures. Now Greenpeace Romania is working to make sure this is done the right way.

The forest campaign in Poland also remained highly active. In 2020, the focus was on putting an end to deforestation of all virgin forests and natural regions in the country. 50,000 people signed a petition in support of this. Greenpeace emphasized that the state forest administration is significantly involved in the destruction of forests. Therefore, its headquarters became the target of an action in which activists called for the protection of forests with an inscription made out of sawdust coming from the Piska forest.

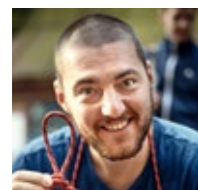


Top: The Carpathians are home to the largest brown bear population in Europe as well as over one third of all European plant species.

© Tomáš Hullik/Greenpeace

Bottom: Greenpeace activists wrote "Don't log!" onto the headquarters of the State Forest Administration in Warsaw with sawdust from the Piska Forest.

© Rafał Wojczal/Greenpeace



VALENTIN SALAGEANU
Office Director Greenpeace Romania
© Miha Kobał/Greenpeace



CARLA DONCIU
Director Communication
Greenpeace Romania
© Privat



As a result of drought huge fires have destroyed about ten percent of Biebrza, the largest Polish national park.

© Rafał Wojczal/Greenpeace

Fires in the Biebrza National Park in April demonstrated the urgency of the fight against the climate and biodiversity crisis. In a tour of several Polish forests, activists drew attention to the problems of current forest policy and networked with local forest conservationists. This included a six-day hike by activist Łukasz Supergan along the Białowieża primeval forest, which attracted significant media attention. Białowieża is one of the last primeval forests in Europe. In the shade of its giant trees, lynxes, bears, bison and many other animals find their last shelter.

The highlight of our campaigns was a protest on the roof of the Polish Ministry of Environment, where activists demanded a better forest protection policy from the minister.

The campaign to save the Białowieża Forest and declare its entirety a national park continued throughout the year



Greenpeace activists protest against deforestation on the facade of the Polish Ministry of Environment. The banner says: "Stop the destruction. Time for protection."

© Greenpeace



MARTA GRUNDLAND
Biodiversity Expert
Greenpeace Poland
© Krzysztof Pacholak/Greenpeace



PAWEŁ SZYPULSKI
Office Director Greenpeace Poland
© Krzysztof Pacholak/Greenpeace

Oceans

Our oceans are many things – above all irreplaceable ecosystems for billions of marine animals. For us humans, they often represent our livelihood as well as places for recreation and adventure. However, the oceans are also contested industrial areas. The search for and extraction of resources are threatening oceans worldwide, as are industrial fishing, plastic and other toxic substances.

“Plastic islands”, as big as continents. Fish and jellyfish mysteriously perishing. Stranded whales from California to Sicily to Tasmania. These headlines from the past year make it clear once again: Our oceans urgently need a rest!

Decision postponed

2020 should have brought exactly that: In the summer, negotiations on the UN high-seas conservation treaty could have come to an end in New York. We were looking forward to the conclusion of this project with confidence: More than 30 governments already support our demand to protect 30 percent of all oceans from exploitation by 2030. But then the coronavirus pandemic hit and the negotiations were abruptly postponed.

We too had to change our plans which were focused on the historic agreement. But we wouldn't be Greenpeace if we hadn't responded to this new situation with flexibility. So we adapted our approach:

We are on site

Over 90 percent of the world's fish stocks are overfished or about to be. As a result, international fishing fleets are moving into waters where they are depriving local fishermen of their livelihoods. This year, for example, 52 industrial vessels applied for licenses in Senegal, which would have threatened local communities with the loss of their catch.

In 2020, we worked with fishermen in West Africa to ensure that the international fishing companies' applications were rejected. This means that they will not be allowed to operate in the region. A few weeks later, in Russia, we were on site as quickly as possible after reports of dead marine animals and toxic substances in Kamchatka. And off the German island of Rügen, we sank rocks into the sea, disturbing the particularly harmful bottom trawling that still takes place there despite a ban.



Top: Coral reefs are home to a variety of plants and animals, like this starfish on the Secca del Torro reef.

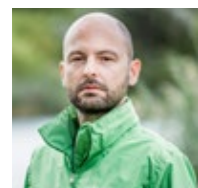
© Gavin Parsons/Greenpeace

Middle: The fish oil and fish meal industries in West Africa are threatening the livelihoods of 33 million people in the region – women are particularly affected.

© Julien Flosse/Greenpeace

Bottom: Greenpeace examines the bottom of the bay in Kamchatka with a drone.

© Dmitry Sharomov/Greenpeace



LUKAS MEUS
Biodiversity Expert
Greenpeace in Austria

© Mitja Kobal/Greenpeace

Turtles, Arctic and deep sea in danger

Additionally, we showed how much sea turtles are already suffering from the climate crisis, with the international report titled “Turtles Under Threat”: Thirty years ago, there were 50,000 sea turtle nests per season on the beaches of French Guiana. Today, there aren't even 200. Six out of seven sea turtle species worldwide are endangered or critically endangered.

Meanwhile, in the far north of the planet, the sea ice is continuing to recede: In mid-September, Arctic ice covered only an area of 3.8 million square kilometers – half the size of Australia. It has now lost two thirds of its volume since satellite measurements began in 1979.

A historic high-seas treaty

Now, the negotiations on the UN high-seas treaty are to be resumed and finally brought to a conclusion. We are entering a decisive year for marine protection with the same commitment as in 2020, and we will fight to ensure that the historic agreement on marine protection finally becomes a reality.

EXPOSED BY GREENPEACE

In the spring of 2020, Greenpeace used satellite imagery to document more than 100 vessels hunting squid in Argentine waters without a valid fishing license while eluding radar detection. During the Corona pandemic, the deceptive MSC label also completely suspended inspections of their certified fleets for six months.



Top: Six of the world's seven sea turtle species are under threat of extinction – the green sea turtle is one of them.

© Paul Hilton/Greenpeace

Middle: The crew of the Greenpeace ship “Arctic Sunrise” documents the Arctic sea ice minimum.

© Daniella Zalczman/Greenpeace

Bottom: These dusky dolphins visited us during our “Protect the Oceans” expedition.

© Martin Katz/Greenpeace



Adriatic without plastic

Its 6,000 kilometers of coastline – more than Spain or France have – are making Croatia a hotspot of the plastic crisis. Our campaign against throwaway plastic has therefore played a key role for years, especially in the politically influential coastal regions of Istria and Dalmatia.

In the past, we informed people directly on site with our “plastic tour” and were thus able to engage in valuable exchange with concerned citizens. In 2020, unfortunately, this was not an option. During the “Plastic-Free July” campaign month, we therefore concentrated on digital content and also participated in a webinar. During the webinar, we shared our general experiences and the method of brand audits that we use during clean-up campaigns on Croatian beaches.

65,000 people against single-use plastic

An important milestone in our campaign was reached on December 2nd, 2020: Greenpeace Croatia staff and activists delivered our demand for a plastic bag ban to the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development in Zagreb. The petition was signed by 65,000 people. Especially considering the COVID measures and the limited number of people at public meetings, we were pleased to receive extensive media coverage on this issue.

Three high-ranking representatives of the Ministry accepted our petition and thus pledged support for our cause. Throughout the year, Greenpeace was perceived as an important player on this issue. We were invited to several meetings with the ministry to discuss the issue of disposable bags and our demands regarding plastic in general.

Additional pressure is of course provided by our supporters, who we were able to persuade to participate in the public consultation on the “Waste Management Act” in large numbers. The ban on thin plastic bags that we demanded is now included in the law’s first draft, however, it has not yet been ratified by the Croatian parliament. In any case, the course has been set and we are continuing to work towards finally achieving this success in 2021.



Top: A Greenpeace beach cleanup in Croatia.
© Petra Andrić/Greenpeace

Middle: During a webinar, we presented our methods of plastic waste brand auditing. We attribute waste to companies that produced it in order to hold them accountable.
© Branko Vilus/Greenpeace

Bottom: 65,000 people signed our petition for a ban on disposable plastic bags.
© Nevio Smajić/Greenpeace



ZORAN TOMIĆ
Office Director Greenpeace Croatia, Slovenia and Slovakia
© Mitja Kobal/Greenpeace



PETRA ANDRIĆ
Director Program Greenpeace Croatia
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Sustainable Consumption

More power to reusables

The battle against the plastic flood went into its next round in 2020. In January, Greenpeace organized a protest at the Coca-Cola plant in Burgenland, where up to 300,000 disposable bottles leave the conveyor belt every hour. Activists set up a symbolic drainage pipe from which a stream of plastic bottles poured out. After an e-mail campaign calling on Coca-Cola to rethink its approach involving more than 10,000 people within a few days, the company announced that it would expand its range of multiple-use bottles.

In July, Greenpeace turned to the discounters. In an intervention in front of a Lidl store in Salzburg, activists set up two giant disposable and reusable bottles as gates; this at last gave customers a choice at the entrance that Lidl does not offer in the store. Lidl has since committed to a deposit system.

Greenpeace also supported beverage manufacturers and dairies with its expertise, which also bore fruit in 2020: Reusable alternatives for milk, plant-based drinks and lemonades have returned to supermarkets.

EXPOSED BY GREENPEACE

Contaminated, non-recyclable plastic waste from Austria was discovered in a recycling company in Malaysia. Greenpeace offices in Vienna and Malaysia cooperated closely and the campaigners pursued leads from both sides. In the meantime, the Ministry of Environment had part of the waste brought back to Austria for appropriate disposal.

We put pressure on politics as well. After an e-mail campaign for the expansion of reusable packaging in which thousands took part, Environment Minister Leonore Gewessler announced a three point plan to reduce plastic. A lot more will be needed to push it through against opposition from the Chamber of Commerce and retailers, but Greenpeace is not backing down. The fight against single-use plastic has gained momentum – and Greenpeace will continue to take big swings!



LISA PANHUBER
Expert for sustainable consumption
Greenpeace Austria
© Mitja Kobal/Greenpeace



Top: Greenpeace protests against the plastic flood in front of a Coca-Cola plant in Burgenland.

© Mitja Kobal/Greenpeace

Bottom: A Greenpeace cleanup at the Danube Canal with Environment Minister Gewessler.

© Greenpeace

Guidance for shoppers

In 2020, Greenpeace regularly scrutinized the range of products offered by the largest domestic supermarkets in its market check again. In its comparisons of product ranges, Greenpeace examines how environmentally friendly the range is and focuses on products that are particularly worthy of recommendation. Greenpeace is pleased to see a wide selection of organic products and transparent labeling which is an important aid during shopping. To start off the year, the market check examined plant-based drinks in supermarkets. Greenpeace assessed which drinks are organic, where the ingredients come from, and looked at the environmental impact of the individual products.

During the market check on honey in May, Greenpeace was looking for Austrian organic honey, which unfortunately is not available in all supermarkets. The labeling was criticized: Most products do not indicate where the honey comes from. However, numerous comments on social media show that consumers prefer honey of Austrian origin.

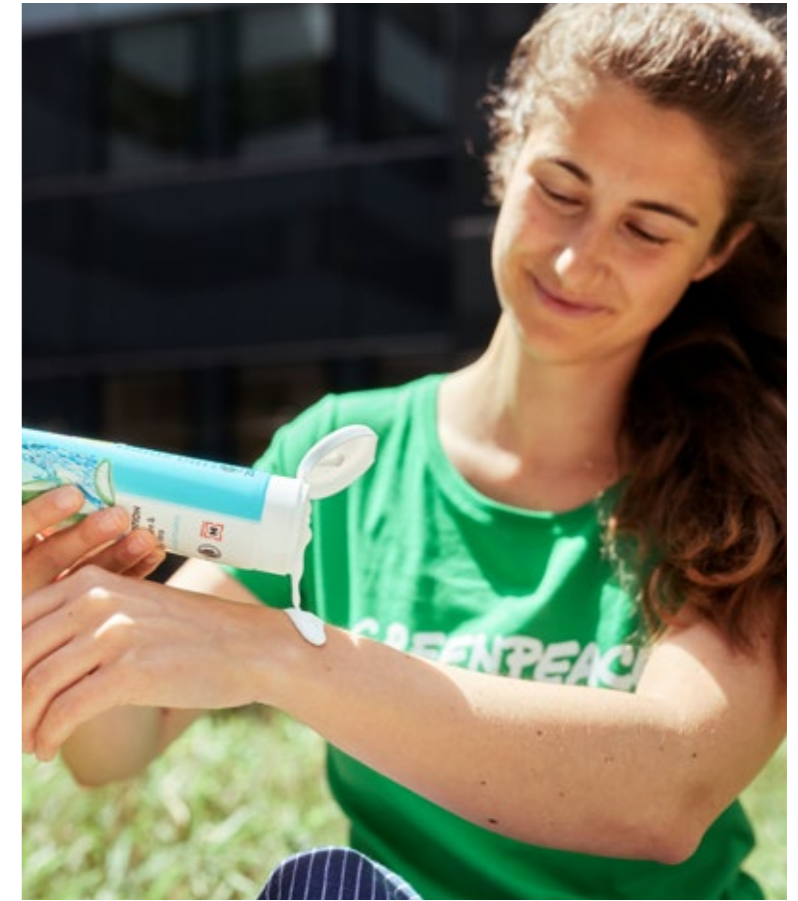
For the first time, the Greenpeace market check took a closer look at natural cosmetics in July – both in grocery stores and drugstores. Among drugstores, DM and Müller were particularly convincing.

The November topic was pork and the question as to which products guarantee better conditions for the animals and GMO-free feeding. A separate guide for pork provides information on the individual brands' and quality seals' backgrounds.

Herbal and fruit teas delivered a positive surprise in December, as more than 50 percent of them were of organic quality. As a comparison: On average, only ten percent of all supermarket products are organic.

All results and the supermarkets' ratings can be found at nachhaltigkeit.greenpeace.at.

Thanks to consistently good rankings in all market checks, Merkur was named Supermarket of the Year in 2020. Interspar, the 2019 winner, came in a close second. The aim of the Greenpeace market check is to improve the range of products on offer in supermarkets and to provide the most eco-friendly product choices possible. Greenpeace will continue to work towards this with the market check in 2021.



Top: In 2020, the Greenpeace market check focused, among other things, on the range of natural cosmetics.

© Mitja Kobal/Greenpeace

Bottom: It is not always clear where supermarket honey comes from, although this is becoming increasingly important to consumers.

© Mitja Kobal/Greenpeace



GUNDI SCHACHL
Expert for sustainable consumption
Greenpeace Austria
© Georg Mayer/Greenpeace

Agriculture

Toxic to humans and the environment

Glyphosate is the most commonly used herbicide worldwide and in Austria as well. 90 percent of it is used in agriculture and forestry, but glyphosate is also applied in public areas and gardens. Glyphosate is associated with a number of adverse effects on human health and the environment. The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer classifies glyphosate as a proven carcinogen in animals and a probable carcinogen in humans.

The environment suffers in several ways from the use of glyphosate. The plant poison affects biodiversity, soils and waters. Greenpeace has therefore been fighting for a ban on glyphosate for years – and has thus achieved parliamentary approval for a national ban. But the ÖVP is blocking its implementation:

In 2020 a draft law banning glyphosate in Austria was submitted to the European Commission for notification. No legally binding objection was raised by the EU Commission, and therefore, Austria was free to implement a complete ban. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Agriculture claimed that the EU Commission had rejected a ban on glyphosate in Austria in September. The implementation of a glyphosate ban was thus withheld on the basis of falsehoods. Greenpeace sternly criticizes this kind of conduct and demands the realization of the already agreed upon ban.

There is another possibility to ban glyphosate in Austria, though. Following the Luxembourg model, all products containing glyphosate could have their authorization revoked. All Minister Köstinger would have to do is instruct the Federal Agency for Food Safety (BAES) to do so. A study commissioned by Greenpeace shows that 93 percent of Austrians want a total ban on glyphosate. Greenpeace will continue to push hard for this.

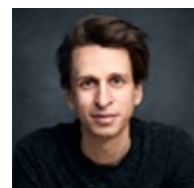


Top: Bees are an important part of the local ecosystem.

© Bernd Lauter/Greenpeace

Bottom: Agriculture depends on insect pollination – no bees, no food.

© Francesco Alesi/Greenpeace



SEBASTIAN THEISSING-MATEI
Agriculture Expert
Greenpeace Austria

© Mitja Kopal/Greenpeace



NATALIE LEHNER
Agriculture Expert
Greenpeace Austria

© Mitja Kopal/Greenpeace

Organic food in Hungary

One long-standing key focus of our work in Hungary has been to advocate for greener school canteens. In 2020, we encouraged the largest public catering services to use more local and organic ingredients which are taking care of people's health as well as that of the planet.

Another priority is our agriculture campaign which is conducted in close cooperation with the biodiversity campaign. Greenpeace is advocating for the protection of the great lakes such as Lake Balaton and Lake Neusiedl as well as the surrounding nature reserves. With the government planning investments in these regions, we and 70 other NGOs are calling on the government and relevant authorities to ensure the protection of biodiversity and natural sanctuaries in the process.

Sustainable farming in Poland

In 2020, we organized protests across Poland to stand up against the expansion of industrial animal farming. We conducted research on poultry farms and used the data to draw attention to the consequences of industrial agriculture. To raise public awareness about the consequences meat consumption has on animals and the environment, we participated in the World Meat Free Week and collected 44,000 signatures on our petition.

Another goal of our campaign is to convince representatives of the European Parliament to ensure an ecological and animal friendly European agricultural policy. Thanks to our success, many of the Polish MEPs voted for more environmentally friendly solutions. This is an important starting point for future cooperation.



JANOS MEZO
Office Director Greenpeace Hungary

© Zsuzsi Dörgő/Greenpeace



KATALIN RODICS
Agriculture Expert
Greenpeace Hungary

© Zsuzsi Dörgő/Greenpeace



KATARZYNA GUZEK
Director Communication
Greenpeace Hungary

© Max Zielirski/Greenpeace

Identifying organic pig farming

90 percent of pigs in Austria are held in accordance with the EU minimum standard. They live in extremely small spaces, feed on genetically modified soy, and they are "adapted" to inadequate farming conditions by interventions such as shortening the curly tails, which is in violation of EU law. All of this is demonstrated in an assessment conducted by Greenpeace and the Animal Protection Ombudsman's Office Vienna as well as two animal protection experts.

However, none of this is indicated on pork packaging in supermarkets. The many seals and brands on the labels only create an illusion of transparency for consumers. This is why Greenpeace has done a market check and analyzed the supermarket assortment on pork and developed a comprehensive quality label guide for pork together with the Animal Protection Ombudsman's Office.

Common brands and quality seals were evaluated on the basis of twelve environmental and animal welfare criteria. The result: Conventional pork, even with the AMA quality seal, does not meet any of the criteria. The so-called "animal welfare" projects meet eight to nine of our criteria, and organic brands ten to twelve.

Therefore, Greenpeace recommends to choose vegetables, legumes and other produce more often. And if you want a piece of meat, it's best to buy from organic farms or supermarket animal welfare projects. This protects the environment and guarantees a better life for the pigs.



In our quality seal guide for pork, we evaluate common brands and quality seals based on environmental and animal welfare criteria.

© Maria Feck/Greenpeace

Pandemic & Environment

2020 was a very exciting year for us. The climate was all over the news at last. Worldwide protests and an active youth movement provided a lot of uplift. The new EU Commission put a “Green Deal” into focus. In addition, the shocking images of burning forests around the globe made even the least interested ones concerned. All of that was something we could build on. But then everything turned out very differently. It was precisely because of the destructive treatment of nature – habitat restriction, wildlife trade, industrial farming – that humanity was hit so hard by COVID-19. Unimagined financial resources were pumped into the economy and (almost empty) promises of a “green rebuilding” were made, which, by the way, 84 percent of Austrians would support.

We too had to change our approach in a very short time and run our environmental campaigns from our various studies, kitchens or children’s rooms, hold planning meetings via videoconferencing, and completely rethink our actions. The latter, in particular, was a challenge. How do you obstruct a ministry, hang a banner, or occupy a mine while staying at least one baby elephant’s length apart? But flexibility and creativity are as much a part of Greenpeace as environmentalism and action. In the second lockdown week, we were already able to organize a big climate demonstration with holograms in Warsaw, followed by a blockade of the Ministry of Energy that was in line with all corona regulations. In Bratislava, we even blocked four ministries simultaneously in cooperation with our partners without violating a single security measure.

Adhering to the security measures is not a fun challenge for us. We do it because of our respect for the health and lives of our activists and the entire population, as well as out of our uncompromising commitment against environmental destruction. Because everything is always about the preservation of our livelihoods and respect for nature.



Top: At the beginning of 2020, environmental protection was truly a hot topic. But it was not to stay that way for long.

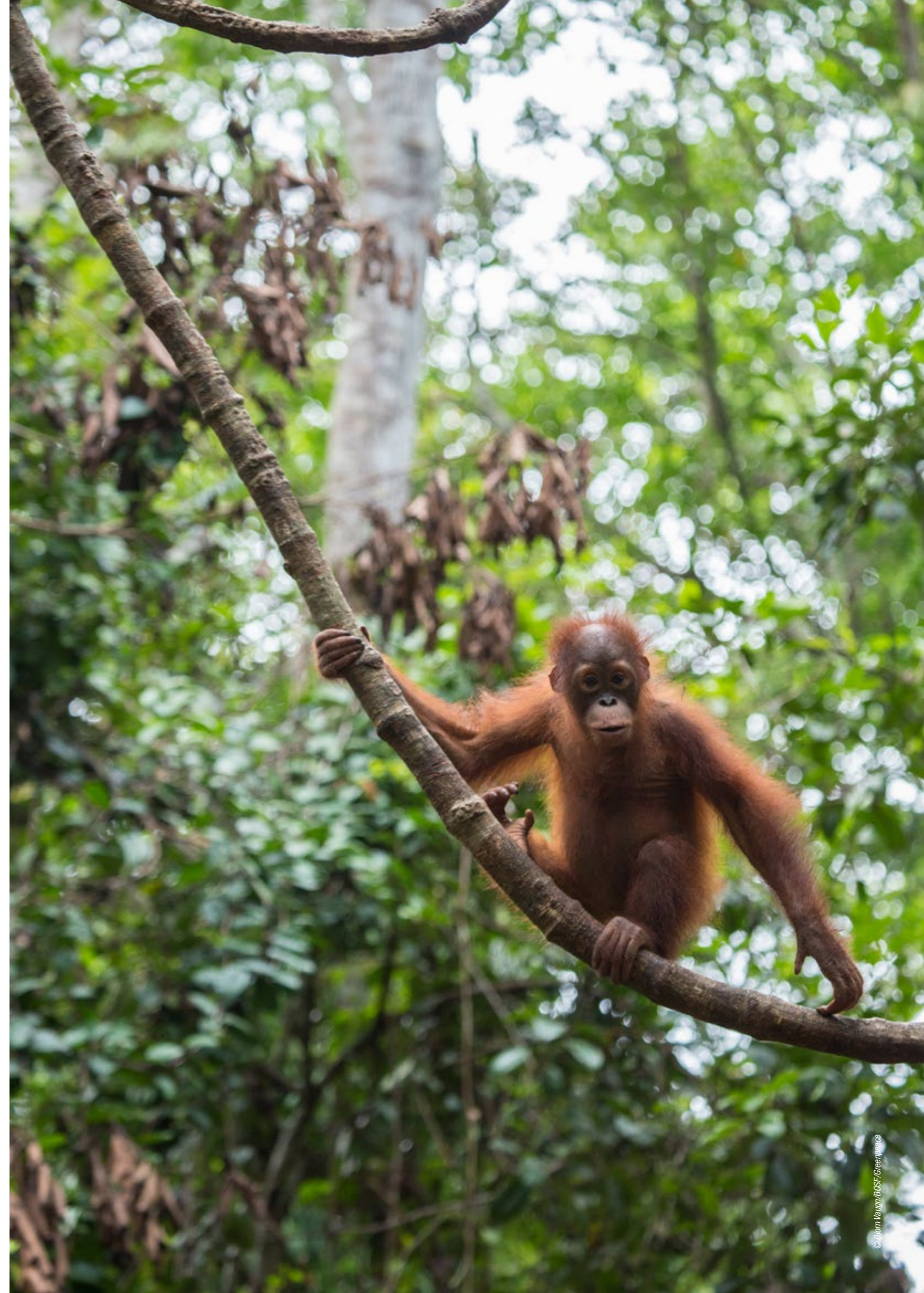
© Mitja Kobal/Greenpeace

Middle: Common factory farming involves animals living in cramped quarters – a breeding ground for disease.

© Greenpeace

Bottom: In Slovakia, four ministries were blocked at the same time in compliance with all hygiene measures.

© Richard Lutzbauer/Greenpeace



BERNHARD OBERMAYER
Deputy Executive Director
Greenpeace in Central and Eastern Europe
© Mitja Kobal/Greenpeace

RAINBOW WARRIOR III

At the beginning of the year, the “Rainbow Warrior III” was “at home” in the Netherlands for maintenance. In February, one of the last actions that took place there was a sailing training. After the lockdown phase from March to June, “Esperanza” and “Rainbow Warrior III” started with expeditions and actions in the North Sea. In the process, the “Rainbow Warrior III” blocked access to Brofjord Harbor in Sweden, where an oil tanker was to dock at one of the country’s largest refineries.

ARCTIC SUNRISE

The year began with the “Arctic Sunrise” working on the final leg of the Pole to Pole expedition in Antarctica. In June, the ship was again deployed on a project on marine sanctuaries in the United Kingdom. In September, our activists returned to the UK aboard the “Arctic Sunrise” and then continued on to the Arctic to document the Arctic sea ice minimum.

ESPERANZA

In the North Sea, we documented two large methane leaks in a depth of 100 meters that were never sealed after an oil drilling accident 30 years ago. This summer, four activists on board the “Esperanza” set out to occupy the Dan Bravo oil rig for 36 hours, sending a clear message against the ongoing exploitation of the North Sea. In the same vein, the “Esperanza” crew sank rock barriers onto the sea bed in the Dogger Bank off the coast of Great Britain in order to disrupt destructive trawling practices that are still taking place there.

Our Ships

Lockdown at high sea

Our ships have been an essential part of Greenpeace’s campaigns since the very beginning. In 2020, however, the ships “Arctic Sunrise”, “Esperanza”, and “Rainbow Warrior III”, along with their crew members from 38 countries and all continents, were affected by the Corona pandemic as well. The impact of the pandemic required extended standby periods as well as comprehensive health and safety protocols, policies, risk assessments and clearance procedures for every single move.

By March, all three ships were en route to Europe due to the spread of COVID-19. By that time, ports around the world were already closed and movement was restricted. It would take until June before Greenpeace expeditions at sea could take place again. Nevertheless, our ships were able to work on a total of eight campaigns during the year, ranging from Antarctica to the Arctic.

The People Behind Greenpeace



Marion Cotillard

Hollywood actress

The Antarctic is a frozen wilderness that should be far beyond the reach of human impact, but even the most remote parts of our planet are changing at an alarming rate. I was there to bear witness to this fragile environment, inhabited by penguins, whales and seals whose ocean home needs to be protected.

It was the first time I've ever lived on a ship, and it was amazing to spend time with the Greenpeace crew and the scientists who are out there doing crucial work to understand the threats facing the oceans, like climate change, industrial fishing and plastic pollution. Our planet is a blue planet: the ocean covers more of it than every continent combined, and we all have a responsibility to protect it.



Josef Unterweger

Lawyer

When I was a schoolboy, I got involved in the citizens' initiative "Save the Dorfertal", which protested against a power plant project in East Tyrol and against the Zwentendorf nuclear power plant. That is where I met people who later became Greenpeace activists. In 1989, I became self-employed as a lawyer. Greenpeace Austria was founded at the same time.

Even before I was registered as an attorney, I advised citizens' initiatives and gave people recommendations for actions. I continue to do so. I have been a consultant on campaigns, donations in wills, media matters and much more for over 30 years now. Greenpeace is committed to environmental protection and human rights. So am I. We are a great match in that regard. I know that the time I spend with these people is time won, which I appreciate.



Maria Gottenhuber

Donor & sustainability enthusiast

As a person who, being lucky enough to be born in Central Europe, has lived on the proverbial sunny side of life, but who at the same time sees how many environmental and social issues there are, I feel obliged to support projects in these areas. Respect to the activists who would even risk their lives for us! But those who make a monetary contribution are important too because they are the ones making many projects possible in the first place.

Financial support can come in many forms. In addition to my regular contributions, for example, foregoing gifts on various occasions and asking for donations instead is a good way to raise funds and start conversations. These also make a significant contribution to raising awareness and consciousness among my circle of acquaintances. I have experienced this first hand.

What's also good to know: Donations are tax deductible! So maybe, it can be a little bit more. By the way, doing good has been proven to make people happy. And I can only confirm this! We should not forget that we live in the greatest prosperity since the beginning of time. Let us be grateful and humble, and let's see to it that a livable future is preserved for our descendants.



Helga Kromp-Kolb

Climate researcher

There are three things I learned from citizens' movements as a young scientist. Number one: It is not enough to be an expert in one field. To make good decisions, you need a broad, comprehensive view of the problem. Number two: Experienced practitioners often identify upcoming problems much earlier than scientists. Three: Statements must be relevant to those affected and made in clear language.

Greenpeace staff cover a wide range of fields and understand the technical literature. Therefore, Greenpeace as an organization can develop a holistic and forward-looking view. Scientific results are professionally communicated in an understandable form, often supported by pictures or spectacular actions. Greenpeace thus becomes an important mediator between science, the general public and decision makers.



Fay Fernandes und Federico Petrei

Multimedia art collective Deltaprocess

Fay Fernandes and Federico Petrei, partners in life, core team of Deltaprocess: a multimedia art collective focused on projection-mapping, 3D motion design and immersive video-art.

We believe that as artists and creatives we have an important task in this moment of our (so called) evolution, which is the chance, through the use of our special tools and techniques, to communicate loudly and incisively some of the issues that come from our every-day lives and single actions that can harm the environment and our own life on this planet.

With Greenpeace we've surely done our most significant work based on environmental themes, such as the fires in the Amazon forest. In times where information technology is saturating people's senses with consumerism, we love the organization's interest in creating massive, urban scale actions which stand out so brilliantly, to drive powerful messages of change. It has been a wonderful experience to contribute with our passion and expertise to generate more awareness on such themes.



Alžbeta Szabova

Greenpeace Activist

I'm a fresh high-school graduate and I believe that while individual changes we make in our lifestyle can help reduce the amount of damage our everyday actions cause, it's foolish to think the impacts of our actions are in any way comparable to the incredible devastation caused by huge corporations and to the power governments have. By protesting we can hold them accountable and draw attention to the horrific practices destroying our planet, the way profit is being valued above life and future of us all and the lies and broken promises to fix and stop it being so. Because of this I've joined Greenpeace as an activist. I choose Greenpeace because of its name being known and recognized worldwide which and that in comparison with smaller NGOs or new activist groups it also makes its impact stronger and already has values and structures in place that make it able to function more efficiently.

Greenpeace CEE in Figures

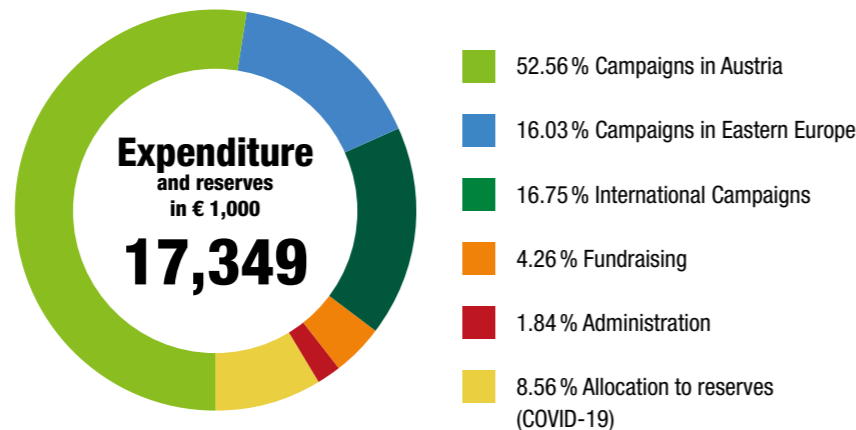
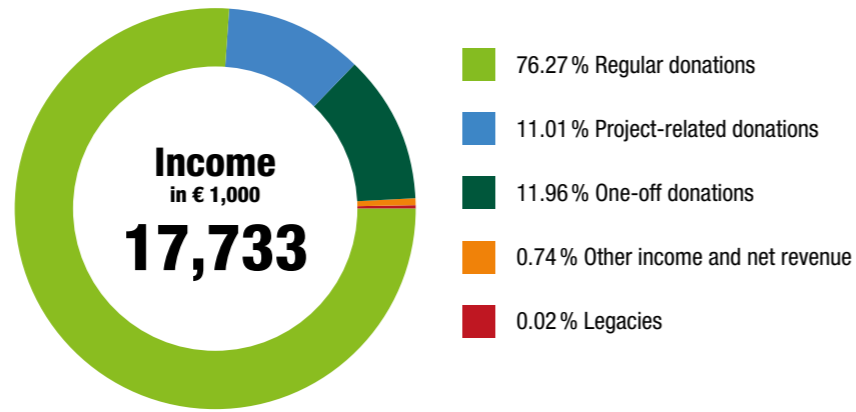
Overview

In order to guarantee complete independence, Greenpeace does not accept money from governments, corporations or institutions such as the EU or the UN, but only from private donors and foundations.

In 2020, Greenpeace's total income in Central and Eastern Europe reached almost 18 million euros. The majority of the income (over 13 million euros) was generated through regular contributions from our donors, while another 2.1 million euros was collected through irregular contributions. 1.5 million euros were allocated to untaxed reserves. The annual balance sheet shows a surplus of 383,348 euros, which will be added to the capital reserves.

Austrian donations are used to fund campaign work in Austria and Eastern Europe. In addition, Greenpeace in Central and Eastern Europe also finances part of the international campaign work, as the ruthless exploitation of nature does not stop at national borders. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have made it possible for us to continue to work for the environment.

Each year, Greenpeace has its accounts audited by an authorized accounting firm for regarding their adherence to all guidelines for donation-supported organisations and organisations certified with the "Spendengütesiegel" (donation quality seal). The complete 2020 financial statements were given to Grant Thornton Austria GmbH for audit. The auditor's note for these annual financial statements is dated March 29th, 2021.



Donation Seal of Quality

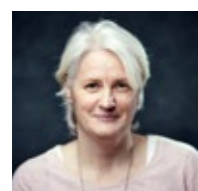
Greenpeace has been authorized to hold the "Spendengütesiegel" (Donation Seal of Quality) since November 14th, 2001. The seal guarantees that donations are used efficiently and in a goal-oriented manner. Every organization that bears the Donation Seal of Quality is subjected to a strict and extensive annual audit by independent auditors.



The Structure of Greenpeace in Central and Eastern Europe



Greenpeace in Central and Eastern Europe is based in Vienna, and its activities cover Central and Eastern Europe. For this purpose, independent organisations and foundations were founded in Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Croatia. Furthermore, we work with partners in Bulgaria and Slovenia. The highest decision-making body is the General Assembly (GA). The GA selects the six-person Honorary Board of Directors. The Honorary Board appoints the Executive Director. This person has legal, organisational and financial responsibility for the organisation and for the permanent employees.



ASTRID HUBER-LOIBL
Finance Director
© Mitja Kobal/Greenpeace



SUSANNE WINTER
Deputy Executive Director
© Mitja Kobal/Greenpeace

*RA Kanzlei Stanonik: Saltzorgasse 2, A-1010 Vienna; Kinast Rechtsanwalts-GmbH: Hohenzollernring 54, D-50672 Cologne

Income in € 1,000	2020	2019
I. Donations	17,203	16,557
Unallocated donations	15,650	14,102
<i>Autopayment donations</i>	13,525	12,343
<i>One-off donations</i>	2,121	1,734
<i>Legacies</i>	4	26
Earmarked donations	1,553	2,455
II. Membership fees	-	-
III. Operating income	-	-
a. Operating income from public funds	-	-
b. Other operating income	-	-
IV. Subsidies and government grants	-	-
V. Other income	131	180
a. Asset management	6	4
b. Other miscellaneous income not included in items I. to IV.	125	176
VI. Dissolution of liabilities for donations not yet used appropriately	398	16
VII. Dissolution of reserves	-	-
VIII. Annual deficit	-	-
	17,733	16,753

Expenses in € 1,000	2020	2019
I. Expenses on statutory defined purpose	14,806	15,622
Campaigns in Austria	9,118	9,850
<i>General campaigning</i>	2,319	2,550
<i>Information on campaigns</i>	5,845	6,229
<i>Public relations on campaigns</i>	954	1,072
Campaigns in Eastern Europe	2,781	2,729
International Campaigns	2,906	3,043
II. Fundraising	740	735
III. Administration	314	339
IV. Other Expenses , not included in items I. to III.	5	0
V. Appropriation to liabilities for donations not yet used as designated	-	-
VI. Appropriation to reserves	1,485	-
VI. Annual surplus	383	56
	17,733	16,753

This is how we keep our supporters in Austria up to date:



2,000 articles

In 2020 we had a total of over 2,000 media reports – an average of about 5 reports on Greenpeace per day.



297,485 subscribers

297,485 people are regularly informed about various environmental protection issues via our newsletter.



118,000 Facebook fans

On Facebook, Greenpeace in Austria had 118,000 fans at the end of 2020.



4,306 questions answered

We also responded to 4,306 thematic inquiries.

Donations in € 1,000



Donors





© Abbie Trayler-Smith/Greenpeace



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Thank you!

You make environmental protection possible!

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Greenpeace in Central and Eastern Europe

Wiedner Hauptstraße 120-124

1050 Vienna

Austria

Tel.: +43 1 54 54 580

E-Mail: service@greenpeace.at

www.greenpeace.at

AUSTRIA

Wiedner Hauptstraße 120-124

1050 Vienna

Tel.: +43 1 54 54 580

E-Mail: service@greenpeace.at

www.greenpeace.at

CROATIA

Il. Vrbik 4

10000 Zagreb

Tel.: +385 1 88 96 962

E-Mail: icroatia@greenpeace.org

www.greenpeace.hr

POLAND

Ul. Altowa 4

02-386 Warschau

Tel.: +48 22 65 98 499

E-Mail: info.poland@greenpeace.org

www.greenpeace.pl

SLOVAKIA

Horná Vančurova 1697/7

P. O. Box 58

814 99 Bratislava 1

Tel.: +421 2 54 77 1202

E-Mail: info@greenpeace.sk

www.greenpeace.sk

BULGARIA

Krastyo Sarafov Street N24, floor 1,

Office 1

Sofia 1164

Tel.: +359 89 66 28 808

E-Mail: info.bulgaria@greenpeace.org

www.greenpeace.bg

HUNGARY

Zászlós utca 54

1143 Budapest

Tel.: +36 1 39 27 663

E-Mail: info.hu@greenpeace.org

www.greenpeace.hu

ROMANIA

Strada Louis Blanc 16

Sector 1, Bukarest

Tel.: +40 31 435 57 43

E-Mail: info.romania@greenpeace.org

www.greenpeace.org/romania

SLOVENIA

Kladenska 12

1000 Ljubljana

Tel.: +386 30 404 144

E-Mail: info.si@greenpeace.org

www.greenpeace.si

Imprint: Greenpeace in Central and Eastern Europe, Wiedner Hauptstraße 120-124, 1050 Vienna, Tel.: +43 1 5454580

Bank account: Erste Bank, IBAN: AT24 2011 1822 2121 9800; www.greenpeace.at/spenden, spenden@greenpeace.at, service@greenpeace.at,

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