

## Financial Report for European Sustainable Use Group during 2020-2023

The annual finances of ESUG have been simple for the three years. Although we manage tens of thousands of Euros during projects, when we are 'between projects' ESUG has been costing about €3,000 to run. Of this, the software fee for the Naturalliance network that we run for IUCN is about 65%, our membership of IUCN is about 20% and the remainder is for accounting, banking and any fees to the authorities in Belgium to maintain our constitution. Other expenses are met by officers from their personal budgets and we seek opportunities on a one-off basis from IUCN and elsewhere to bring country coordinators and network contributors from countries with relatively low GDP (e.g. Ukraine) to meetings.

We depend on our Patrons (listed gratefully on <https://esug.sycl.net> at lower right, or scroll down on a mobile) to meet the €3,000 p.a. cost of necessary expenses, asking €500 from each. In fact, we have received slightly less than €2,000 pa from Patrons during the last two years and have therefore been unable to pay our €500 annual membership fee to IUCN.

For the [year end of 2019](#), following our previous General Meeting in Croatia, we had €5,102 in the ESUG account at KBC Bank in Brussels. During 2020 we spend €3,893 (of which some €3,200 was on Naturalliance) and received €1,244 (of which €1,044 was from Patrons and €200 from reimbursements), so that we had €2,455 at the [year end of 2020](#). In 2021 we received €1,000 and spent €3,419, so that we [ended the year](#) with €35 in the account. In fact we had spent €800 towards 2022 costs, as we anticipated our account being frozen due to delays in registering our Committee with the Ministry of Justice in Brussels. In 2022 we were fortunate to receive €2,800 from Patrons and had expenditure of only €541, so we [ended the year](#) with €2,294 in the account, albeit with €1,200 owed to a creditor because our account was by then frozen. The Committee is now correctly registered with Ministry and bank, and our account unfrozen. It contains €387, after paying for accounting and meeting expenses but before we request Patron contributions and pay IUCN membership fees.

We are most grateful to the Patrons who have kept ESUG afloat during a difficult period without project income. It has also been a pleasure to work with our accountant, Peter Koumelis, whose reasonable fees and advice for meeting our statutory requirements in Belgium have helped us through a difficult administrative period, during which staff at FACE, especially Charlotte Nyffels and Thiviya Thivakaran, also provided indispensable support organised by David Scallan. Very many thanks to all these kind people.

As will be explained in Brussels, we are likely in the near future to again have responsibility for substantial project accounts. These will mainly affect ESUG finances for 2024 onward.

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