



Newsletter

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Dear Members, Friends and Supporters,

Despite the Corona chaos, the lockdown and following still-stand a lot of things have happened. It's time to inform you about it.

- **Nutritional and Medicine Gardens project, Zanzibar**

When the Corona epidemic was declared a pandemic and began to really affect our lives here in Germany in March it first looked like our association's work and projects were not affected. That much. Reality hit us in April when I inquired about the final stage of the permaculture project in Zanzibar. The Nutritional and Medicine Gardens project taught women and staff of four medical stations (clinics) on Zanzibar how to install permaculture gardens, grow medicinal plants and produce herbal medicine. The project, up to then very successfully conducted by our partner the **Practical Permaculture Institute Zanzibar (PPIZ)**, was abruptly coming to an end when the manager **Laura Meier** had to catch the last plane back to Germany (she had only 12 hours to liquidate her entire household) and the Institute had to close its doors one month later. The PPIZ employed 10 men and women mainly with the income generated through workshops and consultancies sold to hotels on the island. I always found this a very honest and sustainable way of financing their social projects in contrast to a financing that is entirely grant based. It proved my naïve idea of sustainability wrong when the corona restrictions and the implications on the tourist industry completely desiccated this source of income; hence the last salaries were paid in May. Fortunately the medical gardens project was nearly completed by then, only some of the follow-up and monitoring activities were not able to be carried out anymore because staff had left and cross-financing through self-generated means was not available anymore. After Laura had left **Agness Fursa Kijani** and **Ikram Soragha** took over her

work but lacking Laura's experience with the management of international funds it took them some weeks to write the final report for us and our partner the Erbacher Foundation. The report is published on our website and can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

The PPIZ has done a very successful and important work for some of the most vulnerable people of Zanzibar in those few years of its existence. Laura will not move back, it seems. She was also overwhelmed by its fast growth and towards the end of last year close to a burn-out because of the responsibility to generate the income for 10 employees month by month. Agness and Ikram have witnessed the healing impact of permaculture on human and nature and they are motivated to open the PPIZ again once the "crisis" is overcome. I wish that Weltweit can generate some resources to support their cause and motivation.



- **Start N' Light – rural electrification project, Sierra Leone**

In February we reported on the difficulties **Mohamed Jah**, the manager of Start N'Light, is facing in his project area. Violence between youth gangs that was ignited on a harmless village fest resulted in a young man's death and a complete torching of the neighbouring village one day after. Mohamed was very busy until recent to act as a mediator between the two village families and also officially at court. He managed that all charges were dropped and the youth released from custody except for the one being excused of the murder. In the meantime he has moved the Start N'Light Training Center closer to his students as response to the covid-19 lockdown. He has also finally started to introduce electricity meters into his project and is currently working on a COVID-19 DIGITAL LEARNING PLATFORM in collaboration with CCNTV. The platform will be accessible through android mobile phone/pads, in which 4 channels can be broadcasted via terrestrials in the project district area and will benefit these communities without electricity. And he is doing all this beside his regular job and taking care of his 4 year old daughter who suffered from a very weird hand paralysis. This Mohamed is amazing (he must have a secret solar panel transplanted that provides him with extra energy....), you can read his short report [here](#) via our website.



- **Bees N' Trees – apiculture and reforestation projects, Tanzania**

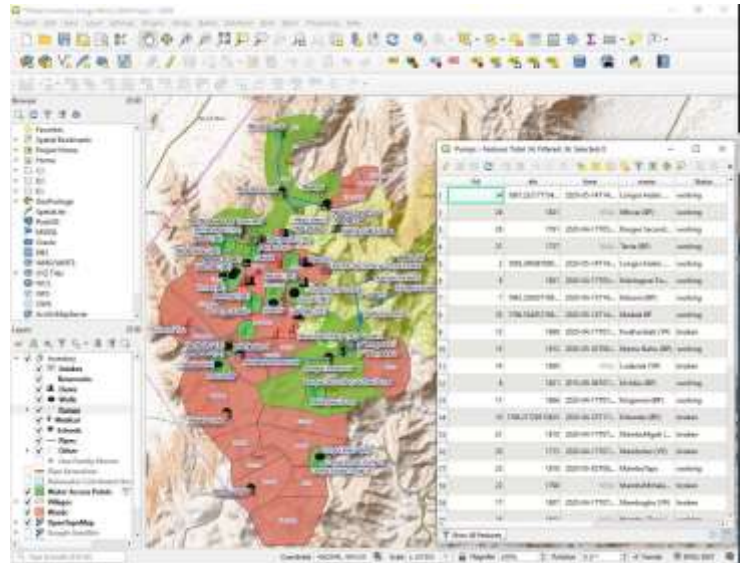
We support two projects managed by **Ibrahim Mkwiru** in Tanzania that aim for natural resource conservation through tree planting and beekeeping activities. The project in the Usambara Mountains is financed by the Ursula Merz foundation, the project in Kibaha by the small project funds of the German ministry of development cooperation (BMZ) administered by the Schmitz Foundations and by the Hand in Hand-Funds, our long-time partner. Both projects are moving along quite well with very little alterations to the original project plan and they will both come to an end in autumn whereas the reports will be published on our website. What I would like to mention here is the additional support we were able to generate from the 150 year old **Bad Sodener Beekeeping Association**. Being a rookie beekeeper and a member myself I presented Ibrahim's project in Kibaha to the members during one of its gatherings and soon after the Bad Sodener Imkerverein engaged itself in a special friendship and information exchange programme with the Tanzanian beekeepers who are trained by the local expert **Mr. Sahil Liana**. Through a Whatsapp group as the main channel of communication videos, photos and short lines of descriptions are regularly traded between the two worlds of honey bee nurturing, and bee lovers in Germany have already donated enough money to invest in a centrifugal honey harvester that will greatly improve the efficiency of the honey production in the Kibaha project. I hope this friendship will solidify and can be gradually extended in the years to come.



- **Water for All – community water management project, Tanzania**

The big project of securing the access to drinkable water for 50.000 people in the Usambara Mountains that received its momentum with the first of two DAAD Alumni Expert Seminars last year in September also experienced some damper through Corona – so it seemed first, but then a lucky coincidence occurred. It was planned that two students from Germany would travel to Tanzania and team up with students there for the exercise of additional baseline data gathering that would help to define the necessary water facilities' improvements and be the information basis for the work of the Rangwi Water User Association that is supposed to get itself organized in the meantime. Corona came, flights were cancelled, you know the rest. One student from the TU Berlin, previously unknown to us and definitely a true adventurer happened to be in the project area, drinking Kilimanjaro beer at the Mambo View Point Lodge when the last plane back to Germany left Tanzanian ground. Being trapped but not feeling depressed about it, **Philipp Klughardt** used the following month wisely and very productively working as a volunteer for our project supervised by our partner **Herman** who is the founder of the Lodge and also of the Ngo JamiSawa. Philipp gathered the missing data and hacked it into an open-source GIS software (QGIS). He was instructed by **Michael Scholz**, a GIS expert working for the German Aerospace Center (DLR), who is another crazy traveller spending his sabbatical driving a Landrover through east Africa and finding himself drinking the same beer at the same lodge. Herman served the beer and I don't know what else he did to keep both guys so motivated but the fact is now we have a very good information basis fully transparent for everyone and ready to be continuously supplemented in the future in the format of a QGIS project. Philipp and Michael left

Tanzania on the 2nd of July when planes took off again but at least Philipp will continue to work with us and hopefully draw his university into it as well. For me this was like the Indiana Jones story of development cooperation and definitely a highlight in this year so far.



- **Combat Salinization in Horticultural Systems project, Mozambique**

The project that mitigates the effects of salinization of the soils of small holder farms close to Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, will commence soon. Jakob Hermann, graduate of the University of Bonn (ARTS programme), will manage this project together with his local colleague Matias Siueia Júnior. The project’s objective and activities can be read in detail [here](#) on our website. What I would like to stress is that Jakob has done already up to now a tremendous good job of project management as he has done all the detail project planning with his local partners and all the fundraising himself with us giving only hints and small advices. He has secured funding from the Conservation, Food and Health Foundation, the Hand in Hand Funds and is about to receive additional from the development cooperation fund of the state of Hessen. If the project is as successful as his fundraising skills are then Weltweit will increase its network of supporting partners that will benefit future graduates and changemakers like Jakob and Matias – and that’s the idea of this all here.



- **My Corona Free School – covid 19 containment project, Peru**

When the number of new Corona cases in Europe slowly decreased they started to greatly increase in other parts of this world. At this time the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM), a branch of the German GIZ, issued a call for small project funding combating the spread of the virus

in specific target countries. One of those countries is Peru. BluoVerda e.V. with whom we founded our Action Network of terrific associations has strong links to grass roots organisations in Peru among which is the **Centro Cerrito Azul**, a school for children with learning disabilities in Lima. Members of BluoVerda, namely **Mariana Vidal Merino**, teamed up with members of Weltweit, namely **Catherine Letcher Lazo** (who is also a co-founder of Weltweit) and drafted together with **Mariela Sandoval Guerrero**, the leader of the Centro Cerrito Azul, a project that would install a special hygiene concept for the children that can be counted among the most vulnerable persons in Peru. Drawing on experiences already made at German schools and comparable institutions the Corona virus that has spread rapidly in the country in recent times is supposed to be kept out of the school or at least to be contained if it gets there. The entire project will be featured on our website with all details soon, once it has completely passed the second application round. Catherine will manage it from the Weltweit side. The CIM funding equals to 4900 Euros and everyone is invited to chip in more to enlarge its impact.



- **Online GIS workshop end of June with BluoVerda e.V.**

With **BluoVerda e.V.** we also organised another DAAD funded workshop entitled “Project monitoring and reporting: introduction to geographic methods using open-source software” end of June. Participants learnt how to use QuantumGIS and Open Foris working themselves through exercises along an example project that was basically Ibrahim’s Bees and Trees project in the Usambara Mountains in Tanzania. The workshop was originally planned to be held physically paired with a special invitation of Ibrahim to take part in it. But for obvious reasons we had to shift it to an online format that made the duration expand from three days to three weeks and unfortunately Ibrahim for personal reasons could not afford to participate. The instructors were **Daniela Limache de la Fuente** (BluoVerda) and **Alex Wellenbeck** (Weltweit) and for them as well as for the rest of the organizing team the reconstruction of the workshop into an online format in a relatively short span of time meant the stress of our lives. Around 20 people participated from Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America and that was the joyful part of it. Judging from their final evaluation we also didn’t do too bad in delivering the GIS content and at the same time creating an online learning community with the help of **Waldo Soto from 2811**. The workshop and the evaluation will be made public as always on our website [here](#) – but give me some time for that. With more than 200 initial applicants we will definitely give this workshop again.



- **Coming up: Klima|Zukunft|Sommer|Camp in Hofheim**

In the last week of the school holidays in Hessen, 10th to 14th of August, we will conduct a summer camp for kids of age 12 to 17 in Hofheim. Together with **Waldo Soto** from **2811** and **Irina Rogge** founder of the association **GeWissenSchaffen** the kids will learn from us how to systematically explore a very tangent climate change challenge in their neighbourhood and consequently develop a solution to it. The pedagogical concept is drawn from the EU funded Young Innovators Programme and the key words are challenged based learning, systemic thinking and entrepreneurial planning skills. Our partners are the Hofheim based **Ecokids UG** and the **Clément Foundation**. Waldo and Irina have done similar projects with teenagers before but for me it is the first time (not counting our beekeeping project with the Montessori school last year) and I must say I am a bit excited as our ambitions are quite high. You will hear more about it when it's done. If you want to read the whole flyer or find out how to make your offspring participate in it go to [here](#).



- **Coming up: Project Management Summer Academy – Online**

Last year we conducted our first Summer Academy – big success – and this year we will do it again but guess how: *online*. Our partner for digitalisation will be Waldo Soto and Gabriela Carrasco from 2811 as they have already proofed their professionalism with the GIS workshop. I hope the stress and workload will this time be closer to a tolerable realm otherwise I will take a sabbatical next year as well. The workshop will include 25 training days, most of them half days, from the 14th of September until the 31st of October and the period of application is open until the 7th of August. Details can be found [here](#).



- **Coming up: Social Entrepreneurship workshop with Life Learning Development e.V.**

Another member of our Action Network is the **Life Learning Development e.V. (LLD)**, founded by **Ibrahim Muritala** whom we know from one of our M&E workshops. The LLD and his sister organisation **Afridat UG** is nurturing a vast network of young African scholars and graduates who want to contribute to a positive change. Since about one year we have been discussing the possibility of organizing a workshop on Social Entrepreneurship together and end of last year Ibrahim submitted an application for funding to the DAAD. The workshop will be held physically in Duisburg from the 8th to 11th of September, find out about the details here. Apart from a little help with the application process and one lecture Dory and I will give during the workshop Ibrahim has done all the organisation, and I am very happy about this as I feel overloaded with our Summer Academy that will start just one week later. Independently of the workshop the LLD is also putting up a bi-weekly open online lecture with speakers and practitioners from all over the world who will speak about certain topics in relation to social entrepreneurship. Once the programme is fixed we will publish it on our website under the News blog. You can find details about the workshop [here](#).



- **Work in progress: Community Seed House project, Indonesia**

Standy Christianto, graduate also of the ARTS study programme in Bonn, is back in Indonesia and now working for the **Borneo Institute**. Together with his colleague **Norisa Jumala** they are drafting a project that aims for empowerment of the indigenous people of Inner Borneo to preserve their (agri)cultural heritage, to defend their traditional land rights and in short to sustain their basis of living. The Dayak community like so many other indigenous people on Indonesia's biggest island are encroached by the mighty palm oil industry. The continuously expanding monoculture palm plantations destroy the flora and fauna and disrupt the communities because the locals lose their land and lose their natural sources of seed material. While the Borneo Institute is already engaged in a project that defends the land from grabbing by the palm oil industry, Standy and Jumala want to train locals and install a community seed bank. The farmers increasingly lack access to locally propagated seeds and turn to hybrid seed material sold by the international agro industry. Those modern crops not just mean a change in diet but also completely change people's farming behaviour. By erecting a systematic seed storage managed by community-based organisations (CBOs) it would help to preserve

the species of fruits and vegetables that were traditionally cropped since hundreds of years and have ever played a central role in the people's way of living.

David needs an attorney to defend his land rights from Goliath, but the fight would be lost anyhow if the Dayak are stripped from their cultural identity. To prevent this from happening a seed house shall be installed and Standy and Jumala are working on a concrete project plan. I am very happy that on the side of Weltweit **Sana Iqbal** and **Lara Wittmann**, two new members since last year, are supervising this project.



- **Work in progress: Waste to Energy project, Nepal**

Met during one of our workshops **Mahesh Shrestha** contacted us with a project idea after he returned to his home country Nepal. Mahesh studied Energy and Environmental Management at the University of Flensburg and he's been hired as a project officer at the Center for Energy and Environment Development (CEED), a Nepalese not for profit organisation. He wants to conduct a feasibility study that tests the effectiveness of micro biogas plants that convert organic waste into natural gas. His testing ground are the numerous food stalls along a highway in Pokhara where tons of kitchen waste is produced daily and scattered into the ditches due to an absent system of waste collection. This not only pollutes the land and water bodies it is also a great waste of energy since food waste can either be composted or converted into biogas. The gas could be used to fuel the kitchen stoves and thereby relieving the nearby forests to be turned into charcoal. Sounding like a very convincing circular economy idea numerous success factors like the willingness of kitchen owners to actively participate, the real output of the biogas plants, the compounded costs etc. must be measured by testing it. Currently a team made up of **Sheila Dangol**, **Ibrahim Muritala**, **Suparna Banarjee** and **Mibi Ete** is supervising the project on the Weltweit side, exchanging drafts of project descriptions with Mahesh.

- **Some words on how we start new projects**

When we receive a cooperation request from a former (or current) oversea student we follow a certain procedure which is part of our *Quality Management*. First we ask for a general project idea description from the future project manager (the student) that is not following any specific structure than the one the student choses. The first description is usually reaching me first and I ask for support within our network. We build a team and comment on the project description, raising questions and suggesting additional sections to be added. The text slowly develops into a concept note and each time we review it we ask ourselves: is the solution to the problem really desired by those who suffer from the problem (participatory approach)? Does the solution make sense (from a scientific and broader context related perspective)? Is the project described logically and convincingly, in a language that everyone can understand? The questions we raise can be very broad about the general background or very specific down to technical details and they are supposed to be piercing and annoying. This way we want to test if the project is really well thought through and if the project manager has a genuine conviction and

persistence to really implement his or her project. This process of refining the concept note can take quite long but it needs to be done before we can start to search for third party partners.

I am fascinated by the fact that we receive an increasing number of project ideas mainly by former participants of our workshops, and I am even more fascinated that other participants answer my call to help supervising and supporting those ideas as best as they can. This is the vision of Weltweit, that we all care for each other, that a local solution to a very local problem is supported by a global network where everybody contributes with his or her experience or special skill. The world shrinks and the Dayak's future or the Pokhara forests are of our all concern. Thank you for this!

- **Weltweit general meeting on Saturday 15th of August!**

We will have our general assembly this year at 11 am at the Weltweit headquarters on the 15th of August. The meeting is for members and also for those who want to become them, and I strongly invite EVERYBODY to become a member. Of course the meeting is also held on Zoom, ask me for the link if you like to attend.

I apologize if I have missed out on some other activities that have happened in this year (like the sports event in Kibaha that was realized through the support of OneTeam UG – thank you for this). If you felt while reading that a lot was done and a lot should be done and a lot is kept undone by yourself then make use of that feeling and join us. Your financial support reduces your taxes and your bad karma.

Thank you for reading and sharing this Newsletter, and thank you for your support!

Kajo of Team Weltweit

www.welt-weit.org

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