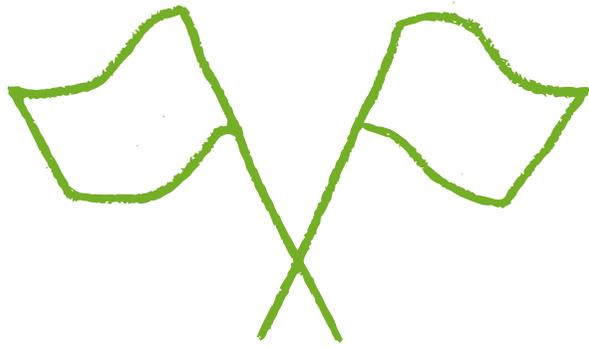


Buna River after the confluence with the Drin River, Shkodra, Albania  
© Jess Kraft\_Shutterstock.com



# Investing in people and nature ANNUAL REPORT

2019



# Mission

We conserve biodiversity for the benefit of people and nature by funding, mobilising and strengthening our partners and the conservation community.

# Values

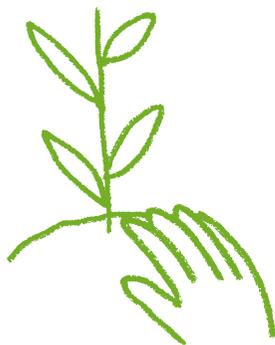


# How we work

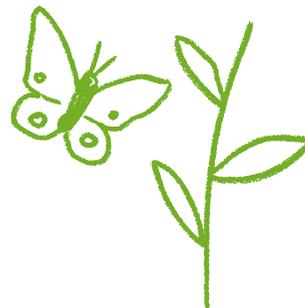
As we move towards the end of our grant-making in 2022, securing lasting impact and sustainability of the work we care about is a priority that shapes everything we do. In 2019, our strategy focussed on:



**Grant-making**  
Providing financial support



**Consolidating**  
Securing partnerships and joint action on important issues



**Building**  
Strengthening and accompanying partners



**Exploring**  
Investigating sustainable finance mechanisms for partners



**Collaborating**  
Mobilising fellow donors

# Grant-making

Mediterranean Basin

Global projects

West Africa

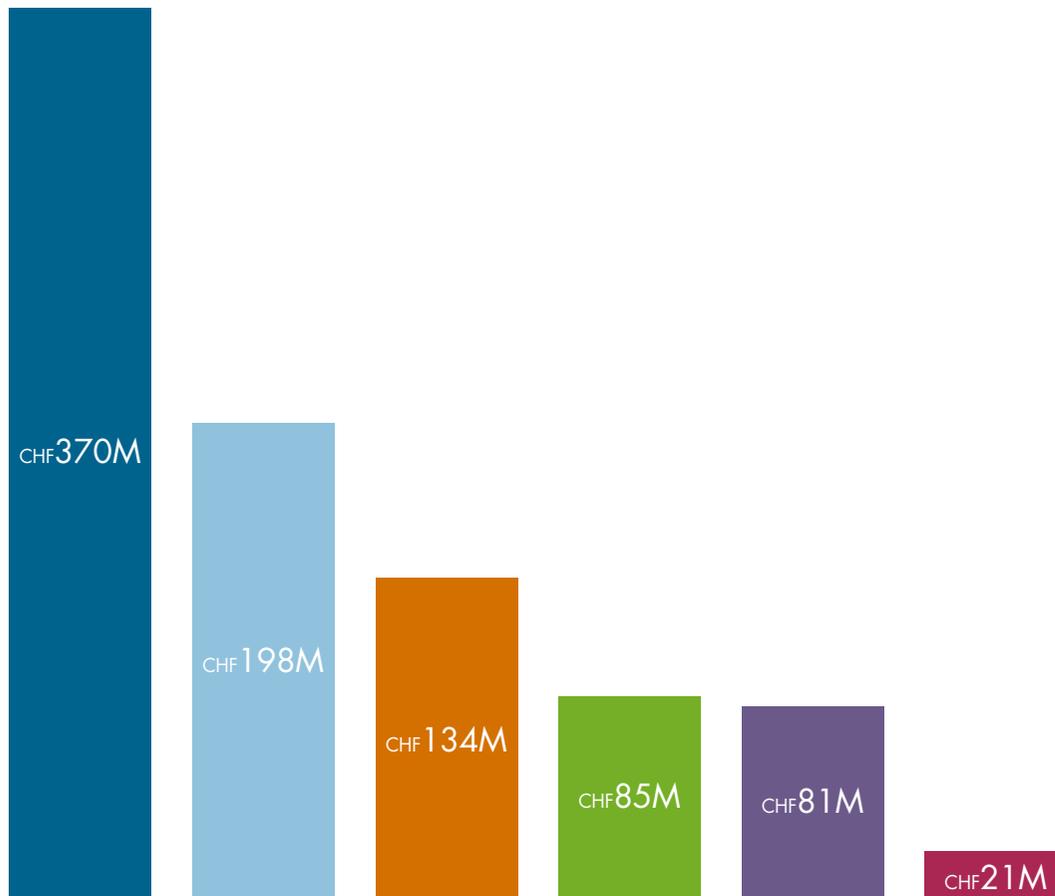
Switzerland

Sustainable Economy

Impact & Sustainability

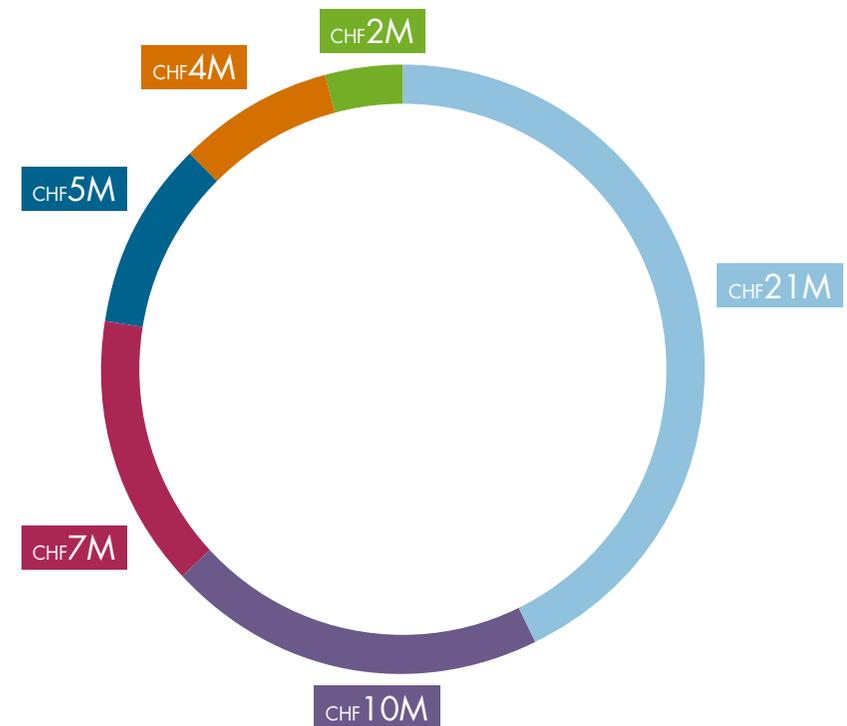
Total amount granted 1994-2019  
**CHF 889M (1 143 projects)**

Allocation by programme 1994-2019\*:



Total amount granted 2019  
**CHF 49M (97 projects)**

Allocation by programme 2019:



\*Sustainable Economy: 2014-2019 | Impact & Sustainability: 2016-2019

# Programme priorities

In 2019, we entered a transition year where we started to assess collective progress, focussing on sustainability and partnerships, and making final adaptations to our 2016-2022 strategy to ensure maximum impact.

## Mediterranean Basin



We aim to improve the conservation status of

- freshwater basins and aquifers
- coastal and island wetlands
- seagrass and coralligenous habitat
- key fish species targeted by artisanal fisheries
- critical landscapes maintained by cultural practice
- priority species

## West Africa



We aim to improve the conservation status of

- sea turtles
- coastal wetlands
- seabirds
- mangroves
- seagrass beds
- small pelagic fish

## Switzerland



We aim to focus on the following priorities

- rivers
- sustainable agriculture
- ecological infrastructure
- circular economy

## Sustainable Economy



We aim to contribute to the creation of a more sustainable global economic system throughout our focal regions and beyond, by focusing on

- finance for biodiversity
- circular economy
- natural capital

## Impact & Sustainability



We aim to sustain MAVA's vision after 2022 when we will have ceased our grant-making. Adopting an integrated cross-programme approach, we operate on four nested levels:

- nurturing leaders and innovation
- strengthening partners
- boosting civil society
- developing innovative finance mechanisms

# Conservation heroes

Every year, we like to acknowledge some partners whose unfailing engagement, knowledge and collaboration inspire us profoundly. Find out more about their incredible work, what makes them unique partners, what challenges they face, and their hopes for the future.



Mediterranean Basin  
**José Tavares**

Director  
Vulture Conservation Foundation

For [José Tavares](#), a Christmas gift of binoculars as a young teenager triggered a lifelong passion for birds. From early sightings in the Aveiro lagoon in north Portugal, he went on to work for BirdLife and is now Director of the [Vulture Conservation Foundation \(VCF\)](#) – Europe’s leading authority on the conservation of nature’s ultimate scavengers.

[full story here](#)



West Africa  
**Ibrahima Gueye**

Wetlands Lead  
National Parks Authority, Senegal

An agronomy and environmental sciences graduate, Ibrahima Gueye heads up the wetlands department in Senegal’s National Parks Authority. Growing up in Saint-Louis on the Senegal river delta, he used to play with birds, feeding, chasing and imitating them. He has always loved to be with birds. That is the reason he is now doing what he does.

[full story here](#)



Switzerland  
**Julia Brändle**

Senior Expert, Freshwater & Energy  
WWF Switzerland

[Julia Brändle](#) grew up in Röhthis, a small village on the Austrian side of the upper Rhine valley. Reluctant to become a doctor like her mother but still keen to help people, she settled on conservation, earning a PhD on global change and mountain ecosystems from ETH in Zürich. She is now WWF Switzerland’s Senior Expert on freshwater and hydropower.

[full story here](#)



Sustainable Economy  
**Joan Marc Simon**

Executive Director  
Zero Waste Europe

Joan Marc studied economics to help create a better world but quickly discovered the theory – that markets deliver efficiency – didn’t match reality. Now Executive Director of [Zero Waste Europe](#), he is passionate about transforming today’s throwaway society into one in which anything that can’t be repaired, composted or recycled should be redesigned, replaced, or banned from entering the market.

[full story here](#)



Impact & Sustainability  
**Kathleen Bury**

[Mowgli Mentoring](#)  
**Alison Coburn**

[Common Purpose](#)

Kathleen and Alison, who run the MAVA [Leaders for Nature Academy](#), bring a unique combination of personal and professional experience and insight to this conservation leadership programme. Both passionate about personal growth and change, they understand the need to do work that matches personal values.

[full story here](#)

# A message from our president



Last year marked MAVA's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and, as I look back, I am filled with admiration and gratitude for the work of all our partners.

Securing iconic sites such as Doñana and the Camargue, **protecting turtles** in West Africa and **monk seals** in the Mediterranean, **restoring rivers** in the Alps, and establishing the **Prespa Ohrid Trust Fund**, are just a few examples of our achievements.

We know from our journey together in conservation that conducting research, engaging communities and cultures, strengthening civil society, and working across borders are all essential in maintaining a living planet.

We also know that we need to change the rules of the game and curb our unchecked pursuit of growth. And in collaboration with civil society and governments, **business can be a force for good**, in particular through negotiating a **New Deal for Nature and People**.

As we approach the **end of our grant-making in 2022**, we are strengthening collaboration with fellow donors and continuing to **invest in our partners** so they can continue their vital work once we sunset. When my father and our founder, Luc Hoffmann, established the MAVA Foundation, he understood two things – the scale of the threats facing the planet, and that saving it meant not just protecting but also demonstrating nature's value for people.

We cannot choose between nature and ourselves.

And as we face up to the challenges ahead, we will continue to profile our partners, **share our insights**, and promote solutions that deliver lasting conservation.

I am immensely proud of what we have achieved and learnt together.

André Hoffmann

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## Founder:

Dr Luc Hoffmann  
(1994-2016)

## Board:

André Hoffmann (President) – Frederic Hoffmann – Maja Hoffmann – Rosalie Hoffmann – Jonathan Knowles – Vera Michalski – Mike Moser – Hubert du Plessix (Treasurer) – Jean-Philippe Rochat

## Staff:

Led by Lynda Mansson, 11 staff work at our head office in Switzerland and nine in our regional office in Senegal. Three part-time consultants round out the team.

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## Regional Office:

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