



Annual Report

BOS+

2015

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1 Preface, Mission, Vision

1.1 Preface

In 2015, BOS+ was doing well, thank you.

With a wide array of projects both nationally and abroad, an impressive series of activities, frequent presence of the press and intensive communication through our own media, BOS+ kept emphasizing forest and trees. After a few economically difficult years, there was light at the end of the financial tunnel again.. We put an incredible amount of effort in the recognition files and the professionalization of BOS+ tropics vzw. Since November 2015, BOS+ tropics has been acknowledged as C2E NGO (Committed to Excellence) within EFQM, the most common organizational reference framework in Europe. By cooperating with prominent players such as Dimitri Verhulst and Marie Vinck, with Pasar, FedOS and Gezinsbond, with a whole series of big and small companies as well as local and local governments, we were able to work towards new forests and sustainable forestry in that area. Thanks to those helping hands tens of thousands of saplings have found solid ground between their roots and the space to expand their branches.

But that's not all. A year after year we notice that more and more people and organizations have been promoting the forest and the trees, sometimes from highly unexpected places. Managers stick their neck out for issues such as sustainable energy or a better climate. Thousands of people, among these the walking trees of BOS+, take to the streets for a decisive, global climate agreement. Prominent economists, architects and urbanists highlight the untenable manner in which we, in Flanders, keep wasting our scarce natural resources. With increasing success, local action committees fight against clearly unsustainable projects. And last but not least, stand-up comedians sink their teeth into foolish deforestation plans by logistic service providers, as well as the support they are receiving from the Minister responsible for nature conservation... Wouter Deprez stuck his neck out and, with conviction and knowledge about the subject, pointed out a whole series of inconsistencies in the forest policy pursued in Flanders. Where environment organizations often calls often falls on deaf ears, he had a big response in the press and (social) media. For this, Wouter receives our Forest Honorary Prize of 2015.

Ten years ago, nobody knew what zone a foreign forest was in, but in 2015, the majority in the Flemish Parliament parties passed an initiative to adequately protect 12,500 hectares of the most valuable but endangered forests. At the time of this writing, things still need to be made effective by law, and we hope this will soon be the case. In any case, it's a big step forward for our highly endangered forests, and one in which, if we may be so immodest, BOS+ played a decisive role, together with many other defenders of the forest.

But our actions for the forest do not stop at the boundaries of the small region of Flanders at all. In the tropical countries where we are active, the challenges are still piled up high as well. In those countries the struggle for nature conservation has literally cost some local environmental activists their necks...Ananías Rojas Gonzales, Alberto Roque Conisla, Ronald Núñez Valdez... These are just a few names of the many who fought for the conservation of nature and environment in Latin America, and have paid with their lives. With this preface, and with the

utmost humility, we pay respect to the incredible courage of these conservationists: against all opposition and at risk of their own lives, they defended their communities and environment against the steamroller of simple financial gain. Not uncommonly, the projects that endanger the environment are also linked to the international economy: mining for minerals we use in the west, the search for fossil fuels, large-scale livestock farming or agriculture for export products... BOS+ wants to remain present there as well, and witness the challenges and solutions we face with our tropical forests.

No matter how we look at it, BOS+ remains absolutely necessary. Every day, in creative, unique, substantiated, open, enthusiastic, assertive, funny, witty and sometimes even very serious ways, we voice the enormous social role the forests play for us. Every day we give voice to those strong but silent creatures that remain silent themselves, and for that reason, are so vulnerable. BOS+ serves no other interest than that of the forest and the trees, which is also what makes us unique in Flanders.

Kris Verheyen

Geert Lejeune

Chairman BOS+

Vice-Chairman BOS+

1.2 Mission & Vision

Mission

BOS+ is the engine behind actions concerning sustainable local development. We work towards conservation, sustainable management, and expansion of forests, here and in the South. BOS+ contributes to a growing awareness of the importance of forest and trees for a livable world for man, plants and animals. For this, BOS+ actively cooperates with partner organizations.

Vision

Forest and trees provide essential ecosystem services and contribute to a better society. Greater efforts are needed for conservation, sustainable management and expansion of forests, to achieve a livable world for man, plants and animals.

BOS+ is in touch with the field work of forest managers and forest owners, monitors the situation in its own country and follows global trends. Based on all available expertise, BOS+ develops an innovative vision on forest and trees.

Based on that vision, BOS+ wants to urge several target groups to strive more actively for a better forest and more of it. Considering the large social value of forests, BOS+ must defend their cause together with other engaged social actors. That's why BOS+ makes tools available to civil societies, companies, opinion and policy makers, education, environmental and North-South associations, as well as forest and nature managers, to strive together for better forests and more of them nationally and internationally.

2 BOS+ in Belgium

2.1 CO₂ forests

Since 1999, the intermunicipal waste association Limburg.net, in cooperation with BOS+, plants new forests to partially offset its CO₂ emissions. In 2015, we negotiated with over thirty landowners for the purchase of new plots of land. This resulted in the purchase of six hectares of new land that will be planted in 2016.

2.2 10 Million Trees

Afforestation in Flanders and in the tropics is needed and remains an important part of our mission. In 2015, thanks to numerous sponsors and donations we effectuated over 15 hectares of (re) forestation, 300 m of forest edge and more than 800 trees as understory.. Many school children often give us a hand in plantings. By doing so, our tree planting campaign helps young people become more aware of the importance of forest and nature.

2.3 Agroforestry

In 2011, BOS+ coordinated the planting of an area of 12 hectares of agroforestry in Lochristi. This is a type of land use where trees and arable crops or livestock farming are combined on the same parcel. The objective is to prepare a demonstration field, which can also be used for research purposes. Since September 2014 BOS+ is also closely involved in an agricultural project of the IWT related to this form of land use. The site in Lochristi is now being fully researched.

2.4 “De Boom in!”

De Boom In's website provides a wealth of nature promoting information. Those who want to gain experience or education: you can download over 60 ready-to-use activities for free. In 2015, we continued to focus on the promotion of this website, by conducting workshops, organizing a press conference at a school in Jette and our 2015 checklist-contest: Lotte from Boom was able to tick all the activities of our list of 50 forest activities you must do before your 12th birthday!

Both teachers and nature guides are enthusiastic about many activities and tips that this project - a collaboration between BOS+ and Good Planet Belgium - offers them.

2.5 Second Life @ School

This project puts in the spotlight the issues regarding energy and raw materials in the south. We challenge schools to look for old, worn or unused items and restore or repurpose them. We support schools that want to achieve this goal in an integrated project, interdisciplinary projects at school, or within students' free time. A project by Broederlijk Delen in collaboration with BOS+, Studio Globo and Catapa.

A project with funding from the Flemish Department of Foreign Affairs.

2.6 “Olie drijft boven”

How big is the impact of oil exploration in sensitive areas such as the Amazon? What do these issues have to do with our lifestyle? Can we come up with alternatives? "Olie drijft boven" ("Oil floats") is an action-oriented project where students (ages 15 and above) campaign in schools.

Theater company Laika directed a very popular show around this theme titled "Konijn met pruimen" ("Rabbit with plums"), with an original text by Dimitri Verhulst. About 12,000 spectators came to see the show. BOS+ and GoodPlanet Belgium visit schools to participate in inspiring subsequent discussions.

A project funded by the Belgian Development Cooperation, the provinces of East Flanders and Flemish Brabant, and own resources.

2.7 Colour the forest of your dreams

A special tour at museum M takes ten to twelve year-old students along some striking pieces of art dealing with forest, wood or other forest products. Then an artist at school gets creative with them in disciplines such as dance, music and multimedia. This way students gain more insight into the importance of forests and nature for development in the South. A collaboration with M-Museum Leuven and MUS-E Belgium at the crossroads of development, environmental and arts education.

A project funded by the Province of Flemish Brabant and own resources.

2.8 What deep roots tell young buds

Marc de Bel wrote a story book for children between 7 and 10 years old, based on stories about the importance of the forest in the lives of senior citizens in Flanders and Peru. We bring "Het verhaal van Mascopiro" ("Mascopiro's Story") to life by having people over 50 read from the book during guided reading sessions in schools and libraries across Flanders. "Wat diepe wortels vertellen aan jonge knoppen" ("What deep roots tell young buds") is a cross border exchange project between seniors and young children. Educational materials are available at www.hetverhaalvanmascopiro.be.

A project funded by the Flemish Department of Foreign Affairs, the provinces of West Flanders, East Flanders, Flemish Brabant and own resources.

2.9 Luis Paul Boom: a Fleming with tropical roots

With this promotional communication campaign *Stoel zoekt Lief* (Chair looking for a Sweetheart) we engage more than 20,000 people across **Flanders towards** sustainable wood consumption. With tips and tricks, encouragement and examples we convince them to take a step in the right direction: use native certified wood and wood from the tropics, recycle and upcycle. During this project, we bring the story of one chair into the picture: the chair's journey from a tree in a small village in the tropics to a piece of furniture in a Flemish living room.

A project funded by the Flemish Department of Foreign Affairs and own resources.

2.10 Films in the Forest

Taking the children or grandchildren to see a film will be even more exciting when the show takes place in a forest. In 2015, BOS+, the Gezinsbond (the Flemish League of Families) and numerous local partners organized a "Films in the Forest-tour" with shows in all Flemish

provinces. The organizers invariably opt for kid-friendly films that also stress the importance of nature and the environment.

2.11 Week of the Forest

The second week of October was once again the week of the forest. The theme "Nature heroes are at the ready" brought tens of thousands of people to the woods. Everyone could get acquainted with the different heroes that are needed to plant a forest and/or maintain it. In total more than 210 forest activities were organized during our Week of the Forest. BOS+ created this campaign, which is very well received, more than 30 years ago. It provides an inspiration for similar campaigns in many other countries.

2.12 "Ecosportief" - Sustainable Sports

The project "Ecosportief, sporten doe je spoorloos!" (Eco-sports, sports without a trace) encourages local sport associations in Flanders to aim for sustainability. Along with the main sports organizations in Flanders and with the support of the Flemish authorities, BOS+, Ecolife and the ISB (Flemish Institute for Sport Management and Recreation Policy) provide the sports sector with innovative instruments tailored towards sustainability and environmental stewardship to be implemented in their organization.

2.13 Trees From Traffic

With this project we build knowledge and raise awareness about the possibilities and conditions for the development, management and harvesting of woody biomass along (rail)road and waterway verges. We work together with Krinkels nv, a major operator in verge maintenance. Together with a group of experts we make technical and policy recommendations through field visits and consultations.

2.14 Nature's treasure chest

Nature's treasure chest is a step-by-step programme that helps students to become familiar with the concept of biodiversity. During the school year 2015-2016 we start with the first and second grade. Each grade focuses on two types of plants, two mammals and two birds or insects that occur at or near the school. A 'treasure map' shows the biodiversity in and around the school and a true treasure chest contains plant and animal information cards. The package is based on educational materials and practical activities developed by the Royal Botanical Gardens (KEW) in London.

2.15 Wood from the Dijleland

Our lands are full of renewable energy, but we make too little use of it. Along with the Agricultural Management Centre ECO² and the Boerenbond (Belgian Farmers' Union), and with the support of the province of Flemish Brabant, BOS+ is working on the valorisation and use of wood from lands preservation as a sustainable and renewable source of energy. At present, many hedges, hedgerows and sunken roads aren't sufficiently maintained because maintenance comes with cost. This project investigates whether we can set up financially profitable marketing of the harvested wood and what the technical and legal problems would be. A first

case study takes place in Bierbeek, where locally harvested wood can be used in the combustion boiler of the new municipal facilities.

2.16 Venture Philanthropy

With the support of Venture Philanthropy, BOS+ is professionalizing its communications and fundraising strategies. In addition to building a brand new website, in 2015 we also invested in an online payment system and a CRM system (customer relationship management) to deal with our contacts in a more efficient way.

Finally, we launched Treecological shortly before the summer of 2015. This tool, developed by BOS+ and Ecolife, allows users to easily calculate CO2 emissions from their car and air travels and to offset the emitted CO2 by afforestation projects in Flanders and the tropics.

2.17 Educational activities

- Pro Silva

Pro Silva is a European movement that has been promoting sustainable forest management since 1989 and encourages it among forest managers. Bos+ is the Flemish section of Pro Silva.

- Recreation

BOS+ wants to put people in touch with trees and forests and let them enjoy all the wonderful things they have to offer. For this reason, BOS+ regularly organizes activities that have to do with the forest and its surroundings.

In 2015, we continued to expand our 'Te Gekke Boomwandelingen' (Crazy For Trees walks). These walking trails in several Flemish cities tell the story of the trees that grow there. You can find the trails on our RouteYou page at www.bosplus.be.

- t'Aelmoes forest guides

A team of forest guides wants to raise public awareness about the Aelmoeseneie forest. It is a forest project of the Ghent University that comprises tours and programmes guided and supervised by experienced nature guides. They offer a comprehensive program for classes in the 3rd grade of primary school, first grade of secondary school and other groups on demand. The forest guides work in cooperation with BOS+ and ForNaLab, the Forest and Nature Lab of Ghent University.

- Tropical forest

In 2015, BOS+ participated in Belmundo, the annual activity festival in Ghent that puts international solidarity at the forefront. BOS+ showed the film "Le Chant de la Fleur" within the framework of Cinema Belmundo, a collaboration with various East Flemish organizations from the North-South movement. BOS+ continually strives to organize educational activities for the general public on a regular basis in the home province of East Flanders.

3 BOS+ in the south

3.1 Flemish Fund for Tropical Forests - projects

In 2015 there was no new call for projects from the Flemish Fund for Tropical Forests (Vlaams Fonds voor Tropisch Bos, VFTB – financed by the Flemish Ministry for the Environment). It was decided that the next proposal judged to be the best from the 2014 applications should be selected. Below we briefly present the projects in progress.

3.1.1 Chocolate for the maintenance of Yasuní National Park, Ecuador

For several years the organisation TRAFFIC has been intensively collaborating with the Association of Waorani Indigenous Women of Ecuador (AMWAE). They want to protect the tropical forests in and around Yasuní National Park and at the same time extend sustainable activities which will provide the local population with an income. The activities have been supported by the VFTB since 2012. The showpiece of this project is their own chocolate bar Wao, based on the national cacao, 'fino de aroma'. They are also working on breeding fish, cultivating an indigenous type of hardwood and production of palm fibre based handicrafts. AMWAE have already won two international prizes for their activities.

3.1.2 Reforestation in the south of Ecuador

In six communities in the south of Ecuador we are promoting the restoration of priority areas which have a direct impact on the quality and quantity of river water. Reforestation with indigenous tree species restores more than 60 hectares of degraded land. The local organisation NCI (Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional) and young people from secondary school eco clubs also organise awareness campaigns to involve the local population in the issues of nature preservation and water.

3.1.3 Restoration of degraded areas to improve the income of the Chiquitano communities of Lomerío, Bolivia

In the Chiquitano dry forests burning of primary forests to create new fields is still common practice. The Bolivian organisation IBIF increases awareness among those involved and supports them in gradually changing this irrational use of their forests. Forestry interventions promote the growth of economically interesting species and thus generate alternative sources of income.

3.1.4 Sustainable management of the Amarakaeri reserve in Madre de Dios, Peru

This project strengthens management of the Amarakaeri Community Reserve by providing training in participative management and financial sustainability. The management committee of the indigenous contract holder now has a five year plan for nature preservation and sustainable development. A strategy has been worked out for financial sustainability. In the meantime the executor of the management contract of the Amarakaeri reserve (ECA-RCA) is carrying out two projects independently and three projects in partnership with indigenous federations.

3.1.5 Sustainable plan for preserving the natural resources of Yanesha, Peru

This project contributes to the preservation of the Yanesha Community Reserve and sustainable development of the population in the buffer zone. The goal is participative and inclusive management of the reserve under the leadership of Amarcy, the umbrella organisation of Yanesha communities in the buffer zone. For good co-management between government and that population it is necessary to strengthen the capacities of Amarcy and its members. This makes nature preservation the result of a collective consensus.

3.2 Participative management of the Yanesha Community Reserve and its buffer zone, Peru

The vicious circle of poverty in the population in the buffer zone is an important motivation for deforestation and forest degradation. Extractive industries (wood, oil, ...) threaten the tropical rainforest. This project therefore sets up rural development activities which go hand in hand with protecting nature (in parallel with project 3.1.5).

Five communities will draw up a 'long-term development plan', including a land usage plan. Reserve watchmen will carry out checks to combat the existing threats. Due to the development potential of the current cacao cultivation 80 cacao-producing families will move to better cultivation practices and better processing. BOS+ is collaborating with the Amarcy-DRIS consortium and with Vredeseilanden for this project.

Funded by the Belgian government and the National Lottery.

3.3 Sustainable production of the *Caesalpinia spinosa* tree for rural development, Ecuador

Until the end of 2016 this intervention will work on sustainable management of the indigenous tree *Caesalpinia spinosa*. The fruits of this tree provide resources for the tanning and food industries. Together with the Ecuadorian NGO NCI and the local water management committee, BOS+ will work on technical design with regard to sustainable harvesting, management and storage of the products. When it comes to administration, organisational management and commercialisation of products, BOS+ works with the Belgian NGO Trias and the local organisation ADE-Sur.

Funded by the Belgian government, the provinces of East Flanders and Antwerp, 11.11.11. and their own resources.

3.4 Reforestation in Ecuador to make Telenet climate neutral

The trees planted in this reforestation project before 2014 are largely indigenous and grow in a range of environments (from subtropical to dry). Many areas were seriously degraded. The plantings have a positive impact on both biodiversity and the local population. The latest round of planting and the annual monitoring of the planting by students from the Ghent University, an intern from Grenoble and a BOS+ volunteer were the most important activities in 2015.

It is an important year in this project because Telenet wants to be truly climate neutral from 2015. For this the Telenet climate forests must achieve an average annual carbon storage of

7,500 tons of CO2 equivalents. According to the latest simulations this in any case looks promising.

Funded by Telenet.

3.5 A model for sustainable trade of FSC-certified wood in the Peruvian Amazon

For four years we have been supporting the production of FSC-certified wood by the Shipibo-Konibo communities in the Peruvian Amazon. The local organisation AIDER is carrying out this project, in collaboration with CITEIndigena. The production and sales model for FSC wood from communities, with indigenous communities playing a role in management, is unique in South America. This year a forest management committee was set up and a forest management plan drawn up in Nuevo Loreto. Buenos Aires was admitted to the FSC group certification and Junín Pablo kept this certification. The wood production of both communities was gradually increased further. However, it remains a challenge to meet the production goals and deliver enough wood to CITEIndigena.

Funded by Graco.

3.6 Sustainable wood from the Amazon basin

BOS+ has carried out market research for its Peruvian partner organisations AIDER and CITEIndigena into the import and use of tropical hardwood from the Amazon basin in Belgium and the surrounding countries. CITEIndigena is a socially and ecologically responsible company which processes and commercialises certified wood from the forests of indigenous communities in the Peruvian Amazon to preserve the forest and develop the Shipibo-Konibo communities.

Funded by AIDER, and indirectly by the Belgian Development Agency.

3.7 10 Million Trees for the tropics, Ecuador and Peru

In the community of Palta, in the south of Ecuador, BOS+ combines restoration of traditional water collection systems with planting of indigenous tree species. In collaboration with the Ecuadorian NGO NCI, the local population and 300 young people 20,000 trees were planted. BOS+ also works with VECO Andino in the northern Ecuadorian region Intag, to protect and expand forests in collaboration with the association of coffee farmers (AACRI). At the start of 2016 agroforestry plantings will take place in order to protect the reservoirs better.

In central Peru there is also collaboration with coffee farmers (the Pangoa association). In 2015 this collaboration led to the planting of 30,000 trees.

Funded by the 10 Million Trees campaign and the province of Flemish Brabant.

4 Policy and movement work

4.1 Policy

BOS+ follows the Flemish forest policy closely with a critical eye, and when necessary takes (ludic) action to build the awareness of both the people and politicians. Through actions for the public and the press we try to put our issues on the political agenda with actions for public and press.

For the project "Wat diepe wortels vertellen aan jonge knoppen" (what deep roots tell to young buds) almost 500 Flemish senior citizens and experts debated about the role of forests in daily life, in our country and in the south. This participatory process resulted in the 'Tien Bosgeboden' (Ten Forest Commandments) that were ceremonially presented to the Flemish Prime Minister Geert Bourgeois on the 22nd of May. The Forest Commandments are the ten top priorities for the Flemish senior citizens for forests and development. This way, BOS+, partner FedOS and the senior citizens want to convince our policy makers that things must be done to better protect our forests around the globe.

While we see that press, the public, civil society and businesses pay more and more attention to these themes, it is poignant to see that our policy suggestions to the minister of Environment, Nature and Agriculture and her cabinet were met with deafening silence.

When in 2015 it also became apparent that the firm Essers NV, after the pointless deforestation of the Ferraris woods in Wilrijk, again wanted to take the axe to a European classified forest in Genk, and for this also could count on the explicit support from the minister, BOS+, together with a number of other organisations, sounded the alarm and found an unexpected and convinced ally in Wouter Deprez. He inimitably exposed old and painful wounds in our forest policy, and drove the forest and tree debate vigorously in late 2015.

4.2 Movement

In 2015, BOS+ was one of the founders of the Bosforum (Forest Forum, www.bosforum.be), an initiative in which a large number of representatives of the forestry and forest-based industries tried to move the forest policy from the margin to the middle of the public debate again.

In 2015 together with the Gezinsbond (Family Union) and the CVN, we organized a festive and varied Forest Weekend again, this time in the Bosberg in Houthalen. The turnout was bigger than ever: during the weekend of April 24th, almost 200 adults and children enjoyed themselves in the middle of nature, and they took part in a plethora of activities centered on experiencing forests and nature.

In 2015, BOS+ went for the third time on a forest trip to Ecuador with a group of 14 adventurers, to explore the forests there in all their diversity. During the 18 day trip, the participants were introduced to the projects that BOS+ supports in Ecuador, and much more. We crossed the peaks

of the paramour and the rivers of the Amazon, met indigenous people, learned about community tourism and the impact of oil palm plantations and logging, and were impressed by small initiatives that made the difference locally. Maybe in 2017, we will have a new edition of the forest trip.

5 Communication

5.1 Observe: the magazine for sustainable forest management

Observe (Forest Review) translates scientific forest research and current developments in forest policy and management into reality. The magazine is aimed at anyone who is interested in forests and their management. In 2015 there were 623 paying Observe subscribers.

5.2 BOS+ online

The BOS+ website was completely reworked in 2015. Communication agency CIBE analyzed the website traffic and used this as a basis for designing an intuitive, user-friendly structure. At the end of 2015 the website was linked to a new CRM system, so that all registration forms, newsletters and users can be looked up in a single system. The site was also equipped with an online payment system, so donations can be transferred immediately by digital means. The Tre ecological compensation module, which also runs on the BOS+ website, can be used for direct payments too. In 2015 there were 50 news articles, with 48,955 unique visitors viewing over 155,000 pages.

BOS+ keeps its supporters up to date with important, interesting and unusual forest news via its Facebook page, where a growing number of followers are enjoying BOS+. We finished 2015 with 2608 likes. Tweets were also sent around the world to 275 followers. And we're active on LinkedIn, Pinterest and Google+ too.

The number of newsletter readers this year increased to slightly more than 11,000. They received six newsletters in their inbox with news about everything going on in the forestry sector and what BOS+ thinks about this, and of course with announcements about the many BOS+ activities.

BOS+ is also a service provider and information desk. Anyone with questions about forest-related topics can ask them via the website, info@bosplus.be or by phone. We answer as many questions as possible ourselves and refer to other organizations or people if necessary. In 2015 BOS+ answered around 300 questions.

5.3 Press

As well as the above methods of communication, BOS+ also regularly publishes press releases about its achievements and the status of ongoing projects, to clarify policy matters or announce activities, and basically to put the importance of forestry in the spotlight. The press is consulting us more and more as a center of expertise about forestry and trees, and contacting us when they have questions about current forestry issues. BOS+ appeared in the press 86 times in 2015.

6 BOS+ in figures

The BOS+ balance sheet is presented for approval to the General Assembly of the 19th May 2016. The 2015 balance sheet and income statement will be submitted with the National Bank of Belgium in June 2016.

6.1 Summary balance sheet BOS+ Flanders

The total balance amounted to € 727.602,64 on the 31st December 2015.

ASSETS	on 31/12/2015	LIABILITIES	on 31/12/2015
<i>fixed assets</i>		equity capital	
			€
tangible fixed assets	€ 31.841,78	permanent in kind funding	27.650,00
			€
financial fixed assets	€ 10.379,23	funds	519.419,36
current assets		borrowed capital	
			€
receivables < 1 year	€ 164.810,11	debts at < 1 year	85.971,30
			€
transitory accounts	€ 25.928,67	transitory accounts	94.561,98
liquid assets	€ 494.642,85		
			€
	€ 727.602,64		727.602,64

In the **assets column**, the following elements can be determined:

Apart from the office equipment, the material assets consist mainly of 'grounds', namely de BOS+ forest in Wachtebeke (€ 27.650). The financial fixed assets are limited to bonds, the majority of

which are project related bonds. The trade receivables at less than 1 year consist, for the most part (€ 156.834,03), of contributions related to project accounts.

As per the 31st December 2015, the association retains a sum of € 494.642,85 in liquid assets as cash in hand and in its deposit and savings accounts at KBC and Triodos Bank.

In the **liabilities column**, the following elements can be determined:

Earmarked funds		€
social liabilities fund		€ 90.000,00
forest expansion campaign fund		€ 20.307,04
organisational development fund		€ 105.139,73
project work fund		€ 19.686,96
general reserve fund		€ 284.285,63

A great deal of afforestation has been done this year. € 10.177,70 from the forest expansion campaign fund was used for this purpose.

The earmarked funds within the WG Tropical Forest Fund (€ 4.033,69) has been used this year to support a project in Burkina Faso, as well as our own BOS+ tropical projects in Ecuador.

Considering this operation now falls under BOS+ Tropical, new reserves are no longer required and it was possible to liquidate this fund. The Social Liabilities fund was to be supplemented by € 4.550,00.

For the Organisational Development fund, an additional € 30.000,00 was earmarked and for the general reserve funds, € 23.665,63 was earmarked.

Debts younger than 1 year comprise, among others, € 31.601,95 in unpaid invoices relating to project accounts. The holiday pay provision amounts to € 35.809,69.

6.2 Summary annual account BOS+ Flanders

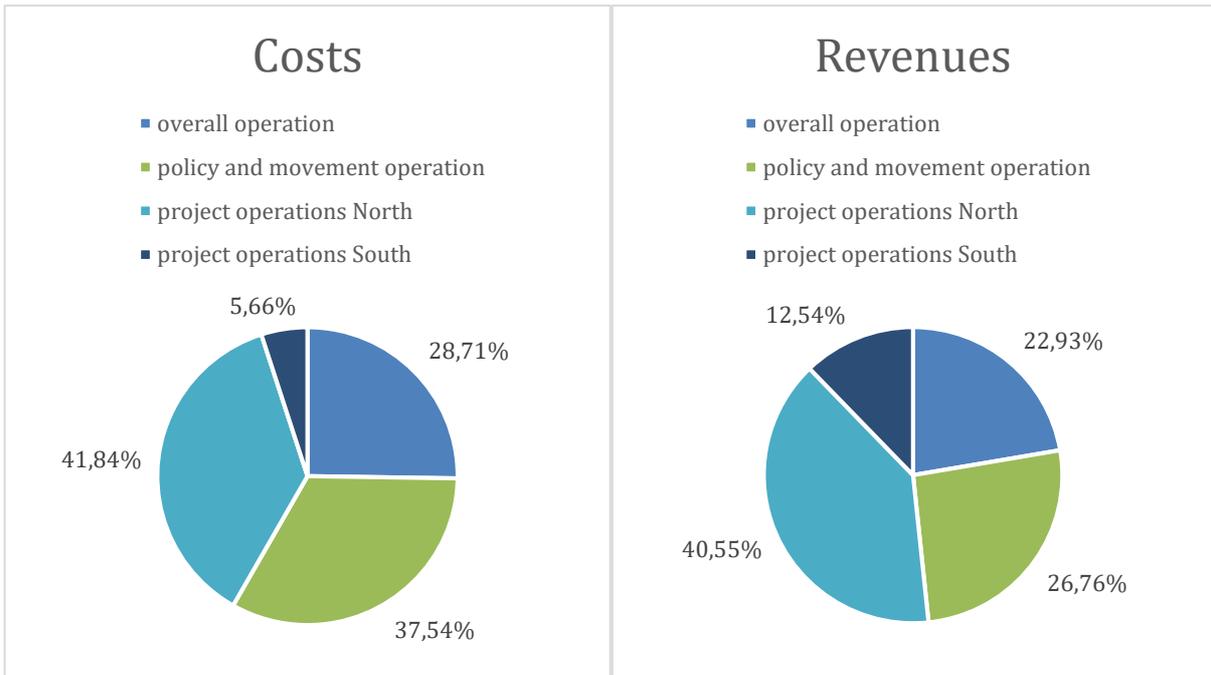
The 2015 total revenue of BOS+ Flanders amounts to **€ 525.531,37**. The costs amount to **€ 481.526,80**. The year 2015 is closed with a **positive result of € 44.004,57**.

Costs	<u>overall operation</u>	61	room hire	€ 17.431,29
		61	services and various goods	€ 34.971,78
		62	staff costs	€ 67.416,77

		63	Depreciations	€ 871,83
		64	other operating expenses	€ 114,75
		65	financial costs	€ 727,54
				€ 121.533,96
	<u>policy and movement operation</u>		operating expenses	€ 21.455,08
			staff costs	€ 137.470,48
				€ 158.925,56
	<u>project operations North</u>		operating expenses	€ 21.521,61
			staff costs	€ 93.717,13
			partner financing	€ 61.870,62
				€ 177.109,36
	<u>project operations South</u>		operating expenses	€ 30,40
			staff costs	€ 7.936,47
			partner financing	€ 15.991,05
				€ 23.957,92
	Total			€ 481.526,80
Income	<u>overall operation</u>	70	turnover	€ 27.279,76
		73	gifts	€ 5.207,34
			grants	€ 38.704,86
			concessions	€ 43.194,10
		74	other operating revenues	€ 2.200,82
		75	financial revenues	€ 633,39
				€ 117.220,27
	<u>policy and movement operation</u>			€ 136.821,72

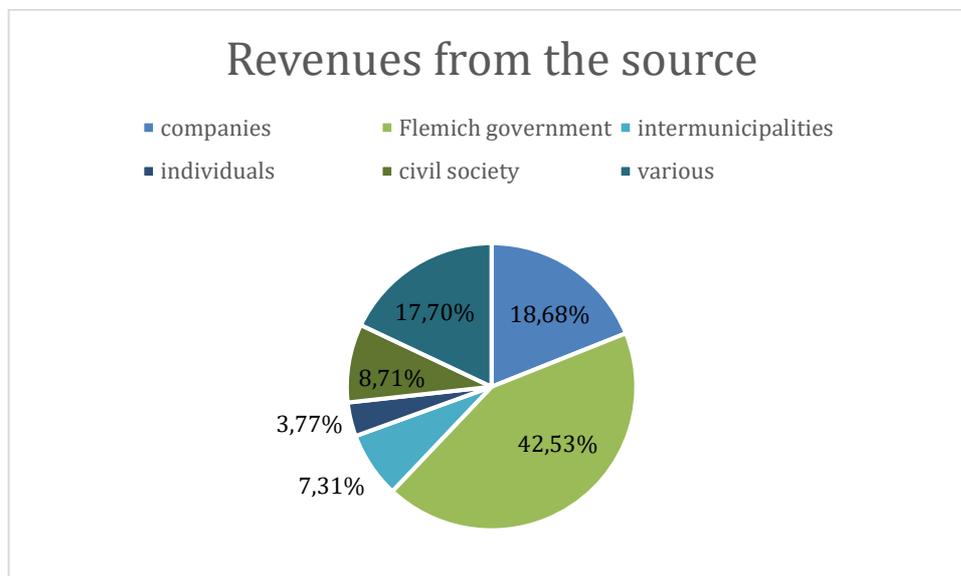
	<u>project operations North</u>		€ 207.351,43
	<u>project operations South</u>		€ 64.137,95
	Total		€ 525.531,37
	RESULT AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR		€ 44.004,57

Costs and revenues: BOS+ Flanders



In 2015 the target of 5.000 tonnes of CO₂ storage was achieved for the Telenet project. This resulted in the payment of the Telenet *success fee* which explains why the rate of return for project operations South is high this year.

Revenue BOS+ Flanders from the source:



The five major funding sources of 2015 are:

Flemish Government: Department of Environment, Nature and Energy	€ 162,803.24
Telenet	€ 61,802.05
Agency for Nature and Forests	€ 53,719.65
King Baudouin Foundation	€ 42,443.15
Intermunicipal Limburg.net	€ 38,524.85

6.3 Summary balance sheet BOS+ tropics

The total balance amounted to € 327.263,70 on the 31st December 2015.

ASSETS	on 31/12/2015	LIABILITIES	on 31/12/2015
<i>fixed assets</i>		equity capital	
tangible fixed assets	€ -	funds	€ 122.673,03
financial fixed assets	€ 7.322,40		

current assets		borrowed capital	
receivables < 1 jaar	€ 9.488,33	debts at < 1 jaar	€ 61.042,41
transitory accounts	€ 110.624,53	transitory accounts	€ 143.548,26
liquid assets	€ 199.828,44		
total balance	€ 327.263,70		€ 327.263,70

In the **assets column**, the following elements can be determined:

The financial fixed assets are limited and are mainly project related bonds. The trade receivables at less than 1 year consist mainly of a VAT and ONSS (RSZ) credit (€ 9.229,97).

As per the 31st December 2015, the association retains a sum of € 199.828,44 in liquid assets as cash in hand and in its deposit accounts at KBC.

In the **liabilities column**, the following elements can be determined:

Earmarked funds	
social liabilities fund	€ 39,600.00
project work fund	€ 19,686.95
general reserve fund	€ 63,386.08

In 2015, the operations of BOS+ tropics were supported with € 2.446,19 for the general reserve fund.

Debts younger than 1 year comprise, among others, € 45.770,16 in unpaid invoices relating to project accounts. The holiday pay provision amounts to € 13.240,55.

6.4 Summary annual account BOS+ tropics

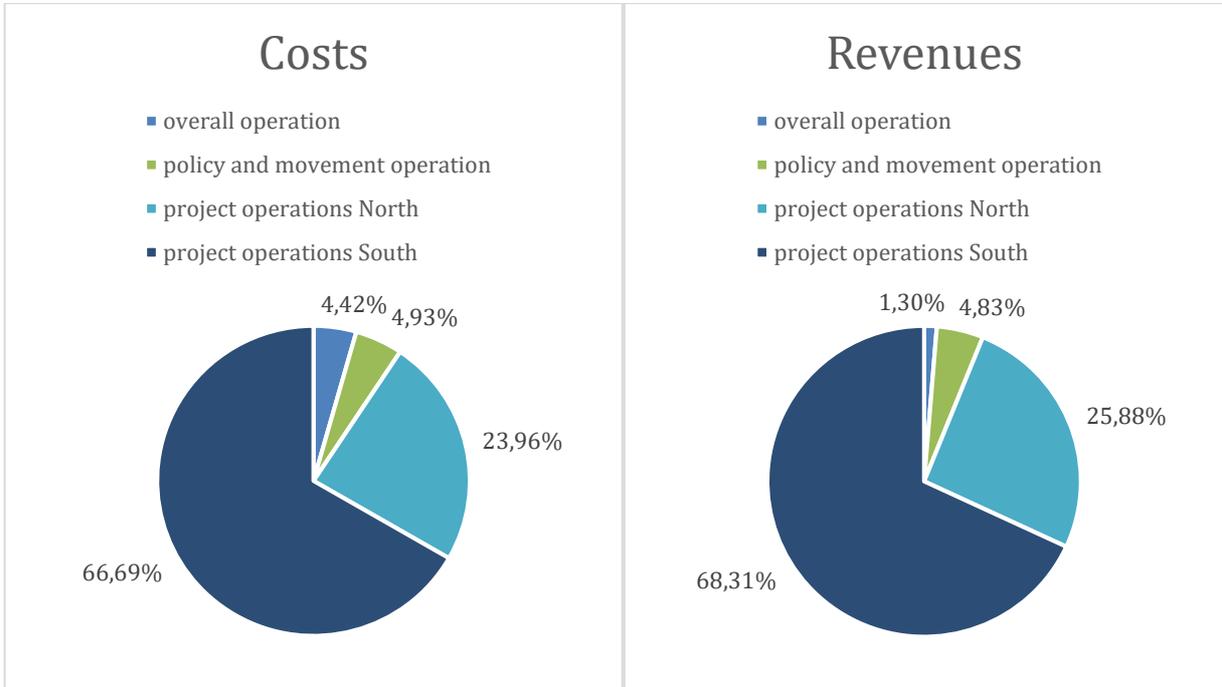
The 2015 total revenue of BOS+ tropics amounts to **€ 770.537,80**. The costs amount to **€ 772.983,99**. The year 2015 is closed with a negative balance of € 2.446,19.

In the past, plenty of reserves were formed to carry a potential loss. As set out above, this shall be carried by the general reserve fund.

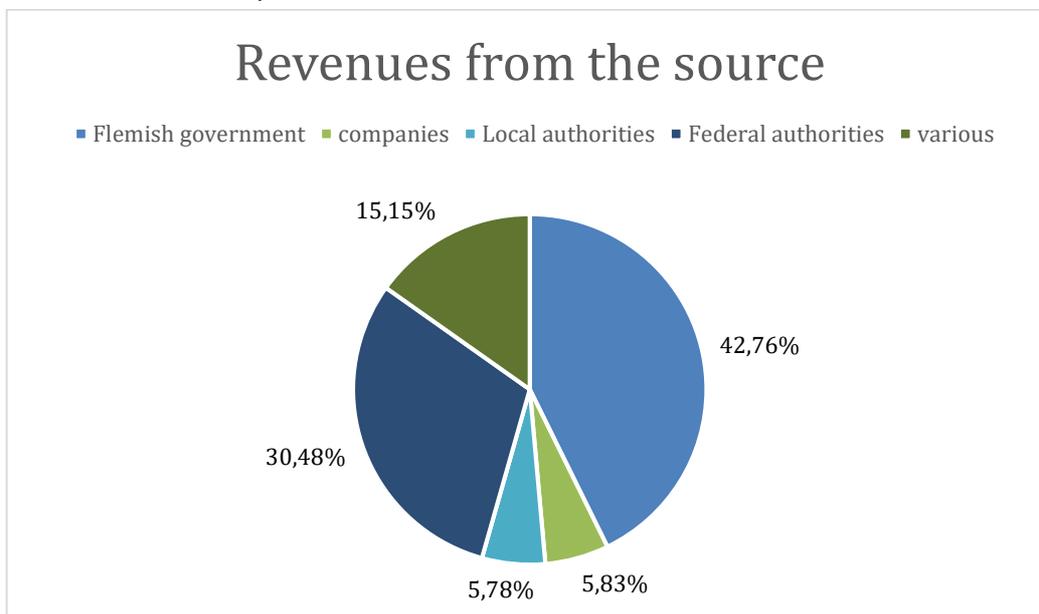
COSTS	<u>overall operation</u>	61	room hire	€	99,30
		61	services and various goods	€	13.808,49
		62	staff costs	€	19.256,70
		63	Depreciations	€	-
		64	other operating expenses	€	36,67
		65	financial costs	€	986,01
				€	34.187,17
	<u>policy and movement operation</u>		operating expenses	€	30.159,70
			staff costs	€	7.961,38
				€	38.121,08
	<u>project operations North</u>		operating expenses	€	32.645,00
			staff costs	€	112.157,38
			partner financing	€	40.402,78
				€	185.205,16
	<u>project operations South</u>		operating expenses	€	29.723,28
			staff costs	€	58.997,25
			partner financing	€	426.750,05
				€	515.470,58
				€	772.983,99
INCOME	<u>overall operation</u>	70	turnover	€	29,42
		73	gifts	€	2.439,24
			grants	€	5.200,00
			concessions	€	1.220,55
		74	other operating revenues	€	-

		75	financial revenues	€ 1.120,63
				€ 10.009,84
	<u>policy and movement operation</u>			€ 37.108,37
	<u>project operations North</u>			€ 198.772,61
	<u>project operations South</u>			€ 524.646,98
				€ 770.537,80
	RESULT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR			-2.446,19

Costs and revenues: BOS+ tropics



Revenues BOS+ tropics from the source:



The five major funding sources of 2015 are:

Agency for Nature and Forests	242.732,62
Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGD)	234.694,95
Flemish Department of Foreign Affairs (DiV)	87.397,41
GRACO	33.835,77
Province of East Flanders	24.650,64

7 Environment and Gender

7.1 Environment

As an NGO operational in the nature and environment sector, we think it is necessary that we do what we ask of the general public, the private sector and policy makers: to live and work in a way that is as sustainable as possible. In 2015 BOS+ also continued working on making itself more sustainable.

Procurement Policy

As signatories of the FSC Covenant, we stick to the principles of preventing paper waste and using 100% recycled paper. For our printing and copying, we choose 100% recycled, chlorine-free paper that carries the EU Eco-label. The BOS+ T-shirts, babies' onesies and bibs are made of organic cotton and bear the GOTS label (Global Organic Textile Standard), the EU Eco-label, Fairtrade, Neutral responsibility and/or OEKO-TEX standard 100. These labels represent values that BOS+ shares, sustainable and organic production methods and fair trade.

Catering

For external or internal BOS+ activities, we have not served fish or meat for a number of years now. By choosing vegetarian activities, we want to set an example and let the participants learn about the alternatives. Our meat consumption today has global effects on climate change among other things, on forested areas throughout the world, with unsustainable consequences in Flanders, (acidification, eutrophication, soil pressure, animal wellbeing, ...) and an unacceptable export of our ecological footprint to the tropics.

Electricity, heating and water

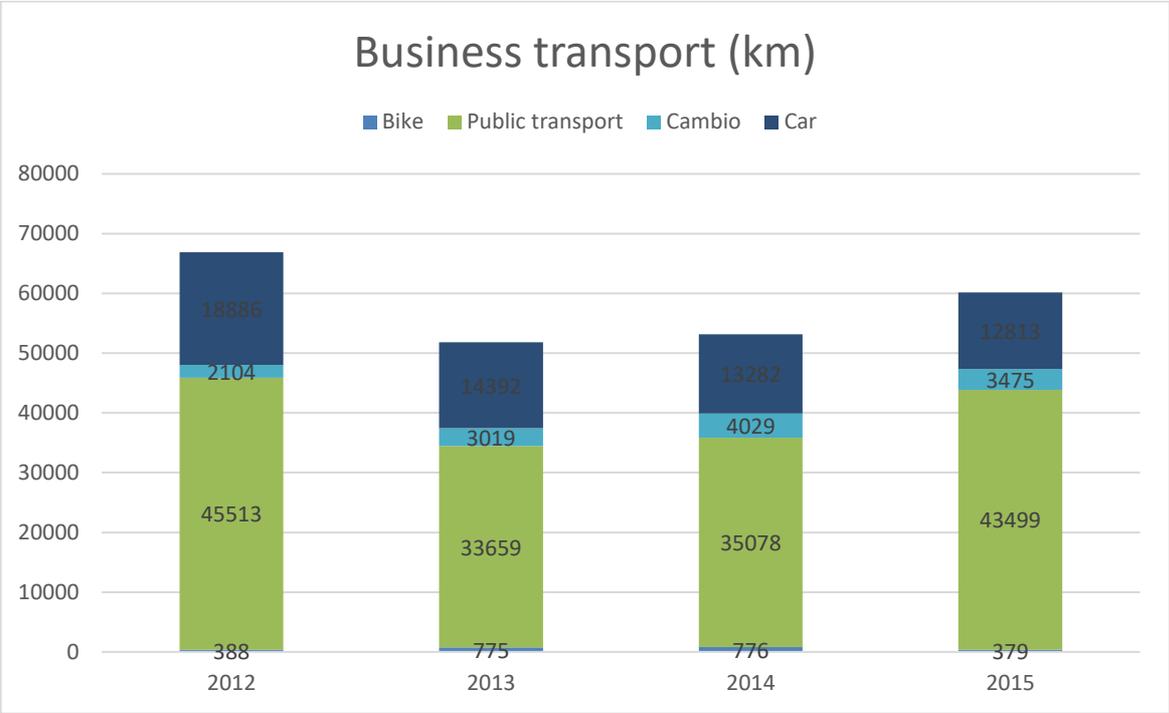
As an office tenant, BOS+ is not able to make many structural changes to this space. Our landlord, Ghent University has carried out rather important work regarding heating and insulating the building over the last years. In 2005, a considerable reduction in natural gas consumption as well as water consumption was recorded for the whole site of Gontrode campus compared with 2014. Electricity consumption increased slightly again in 2015, due to an energy-intensive experiment the university was carrying out, where plants were given a heat treatment.

Transport

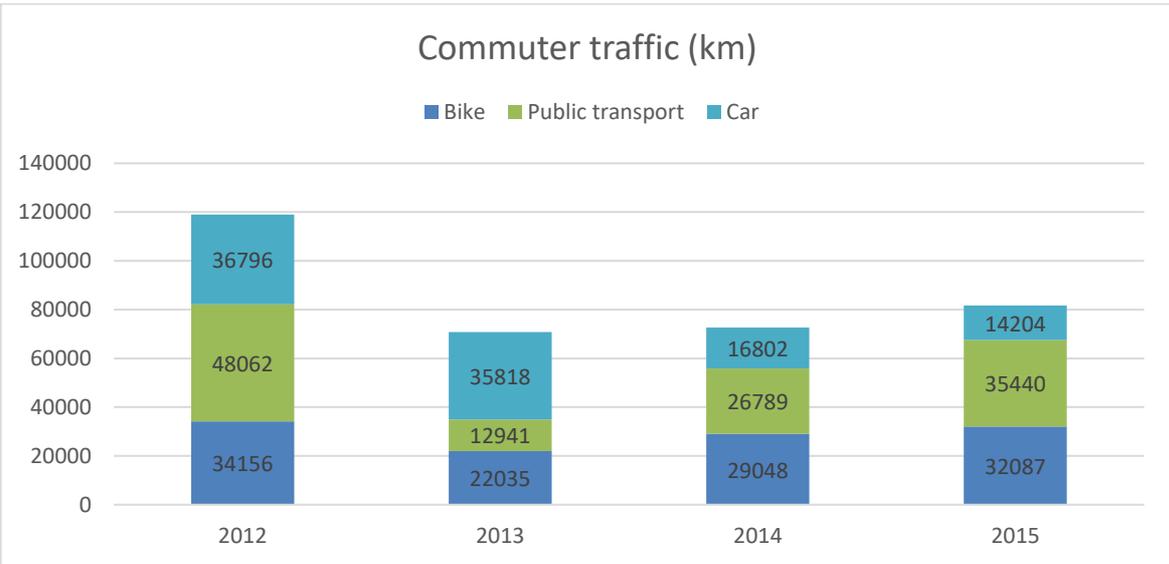
BOS+ cannot operate without a considerable number of kilometres of travel for business: lots of our projects lead to activities all over Flanders. Furthermore, sometimes lots of materials have to be transported for various projects and activities, and transporting these by road is the only possible scenario. However, the BOS+ employees try to organise their transport as sustainably as possible, which over the past years has led to a positive development. Partly thanks to the purchase of a folding bike, membership in the car-share organisation Cambio, and a subscription to the Bluebikes system, we are managing to achieve this in as sustainable way as possible.

Since 2012, BOS+ tropen and BOS+ Vlaanderen have been organising their business transport in the same way. We are seeing business transport by car steadily decreasing year on year, both in

absolute and in relative figures. We chose to leave air travel out of the graph because of the distortions it can result in in the big picture from year to year.



You can see that the number of staff members who come to work by car has steadily gone down when compared to 2012. There is also a reduction in the total number of journeys to and from work. This is because of staff changes, changes in the choice of transport and an increase in working from home.



CO2-emissions

By using our brand new CO2 calculator Treecological.be (launched online in spring 2015), BOS+ calculates the CO2 emissions that its business transport (private cars, Cambio, and flying planes) has generated. This resulted in a donation to forestation projects in Flanders and South America of 734.21 euros. In terms of CO2, this is compensation of 39245 kilograms.

For an organization with important operations in the south, it is impossible to avoid regular long-distance flights. BOS+ undertakes these journeys only if they are absolutely necessary and compensates the resulting emissions through forestation projects. In 2015 there was one single flight and two return flights to South America.

7.2 Gender

Forests provide the livelihood and income of 1.6 billion people living in poverty throughout the world. Although men and women have different knowledge about the use and access to forests, women are the main users of the woods. Their right to this natural abundance must be recognised.

Gender equality, empowerment and building potentials for women are important cornerstones for fighting poverty and inequality. Fostering equality between men and women increases the efficacy of interventions. In the long term, there will also be a positive impact on all citizens' living conditions in our society.

Gender mainstreaming is a strategy of systematically integrating gender in development policy and through all phases of a project cycle. Since 2015, BOS+ has formalised its gender policy in a Gender Charter (available on the website).

BOS+ also wants to pay attention to the organisation itself for equal opportunities for men and women. We are aiming for equal numbers of men and women on the board of directors. As the board is currently made up entirely of male directors, there is plenty of work to be done in this area. A plan of action for this is being developed in 2016.

The BOS+ team is predominantly female. BOS+ guarantees never to discriminate when recruiting, in terms of gender or any other area. Above all, in the future, BOS+ will advertise all vacancies for M/F/X.

8 Organization

8.1 About us

BOS+ is a partnership, more particularly a personal union, consisting of BOS + Flanders vzw and BOS + tropics vzw. In 2012 these associations decided to join forces for better forests and more of them in Flanders and worldwide. Both associations continue to exist, but present themselves under the same name. BOS + Flanders is an environmental organization operating in Flanders and BOS + tropics is a development organization focusing on the South, mainly Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia, and with an educational function in Flanders.

Both organizations are located on the Geraardsbergsesteenweg 267 te 9090 Gontrode (Melle). The company number of BOS + Flanders is 0411.088.374 and that of BOS + tropics is 0479.222.461.

8.2 General meeting

The highest decision-making body of BOS+ is the General Meeting (GM). The GM's of BOS+ tropics en BOS+ Flanders are identical and consist of 77 members with full voting rights.

8.3 Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors consists of Eric Heystraeten, Bart Holvoet, Patrick Huvenne (treasurer), Danny Jacobs, Noah Janssen, Geert Lejeune (vice-chairman), Bart Meuleman, Bart Muys, Frans Pauwels, Pieter Vercammen, Kris Verheyen (chairman) and Pieter Vercammen (secretary).

8.4 Personell

In 2015, BOS+ bade farewell to employees Kim and Lore. Volunteer Lauren Maes was added to the BOS+ team as professional employee.

In the end of 2015, 8 employees were working in BOS+ Flanders, accounting for 5.2 FTE. BOS+ tropics had 6 employees, accounting for 3 FTE in total. Overall, there are 9 women and 5 men working at BOS+. The base salaries of men and women are equal. All employees fall under the collective labor agreement valid for the sector. In 2015, as many as 10 students did their internship at BOS+ and 11 active volunteers have supported us at the office or in the field.

8.5 Partners

In 2015, BOS+ tropics cooperated, among others, with the following partners:

- Peru: ACPC, AIDER, DRIS
- Ecuador:, Mindo Cloudforest Foundation, Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional, Comité de gestión de las cuencas Altas de Catamayo y Playas, TRAFFIC-IUCN, EcoCiencia, Veco Andino, AACRI, TRIAS
- Bolivia: IBIF
- Belgium: MUS-E Belgium, FedOS, Globelink, Netwerk Bewust Verbruiken, Cojak, Province of East-Flanders, Province of Flemish Brabant, Province of West-Flanders, Province of Antwerpen, 11.11.11-campaign, City of Gent, UGent1010, GRACO, Telenet, The Body Shop Foundation, publisher Abimo, museum M, GoodPlanet Belgium, Laika, Broederlijk Delen, Catapa, Studio Globo, Schoolrockfestival.

In 2015, BOS+ Flanders cooperated, among others, with the following partners:

Toyota Fund for Europe, LEAF, Gezinsbond, The Oval Office, Municipality of Zedelgem, Koning Boudewijnstichting, GoodPlanet Belgium, UPR, Ecolife, het Toneelhuis, CVN, De Bosberg, Barbara Creemers, Countryside+, Limburg.net, ANB, De Ambrassade, Kind en Samenleving, het Consortium Agroforestry, University of Gent, INBO, Argus, Curieus, Red de Motorcross, Sylva, Tree Nursery Opdebeeck, Bigtrees, Aanspreekpunt Privaat Beheer, de Bosgroepen, KU Leuven, Link Inc, Tetrapak, Pasar vzw, Natuurpunt Educatie vzw, Natuurpunt vzw, Natuurpunt Zedelgem, CIBE, Ecolife, Krinkels NV, Agentschap Binnenlands Bestuur, Studio Helsinki, WWF Belgium, Greenpeace, Bond Beter Leefmilieu, Eandis, Hippo-Droom, Corbit, Accounting Firm Rydant,

Magelaan, JNM, Heemkunde Vlaanderen vzw, Trage Wegen vzw, OVAM, ISB vzw, MOS, Environment and Energy Department, Agrobeheerscentrum ECO², Municipality of Bierbeek, Province of Flemish Brabant, Boerenbond Projecten, GO2.be, Ugent1010, ARV CONSULT BVBA, Cyriac Borloo, Christophe Van Gampelaere BVBA, Climate Express, Curieus, De Buck Travel, Diamond Trading nv, Foto Coudenys, Furbanice, Gheeraert Transport, Hart Boven Hard, Hertog Jan, Hoogveld vzw, Van Laecke Groep, Province of East-Flanders, Schoolrockfestival, Woodstoxx, W-kracht NV, ILVO, Inagro, Glenn Vanderbeke, Digicreate, Procurios.

8.6 Memberships

BOS+ tropics is a member of: BBL, FSC Belgium, FSC International, ngo-federation and 11.11.11

BOS+ Flanders is a member of: BBL, The Shift, FSC Belgium, FSC International, Inverde, Trage wegen vzw, de Vlaamse Bosgroepen, LEAF, PRO SILVA Europe, the Climate Coalition and Pimp je Speelplaats

BOS+ is one of the pilot projects of Socialware, focusing on the implementation of the CRM software by Procurios. Since 2013, we receive financial support from the Venture Philanthropy Fund.

BOS+ participates in action research on social impact, which is coordinated by the Sociale InnovatieFabriek. BOS+ also endorses the alternative September declaration and the demands of Hart Boven Hard.

9 About this report

This report describes the activity of BOS+ as from 1 January up to and including 31 December 2015. This reporting is done annually. The subject of this report will be limited to the activities of BOS+. Partner organisations and sponsors will be mentioned. However, this report will not extend to their efforts in the area of sustainability.

The annual report has been drawn up according to the sustainability reporting guidelines of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the reference standard for reporting the economic, social and environmental impact of an organisation. More than ten years ago, GRI was founded as a network of NGOs, companies and governments. First and foremost, the goal was to urge companies to report their entire social impact and thus provide information not only on their financial results but on their environmental and social impact as well.

This report follows the G4 guidelines recommended by the GRI in accordance with the Core option. We are working towards reporting indicators G4-14, 26 and 27 next year. There was no external verification of this sustainability report. Please find the GRI table of contents on the next page.

If you have any questions or concerns about this report, please contact Thibaut Joris (+329 264 90 55 or thibaut.joris@bosplus.be).