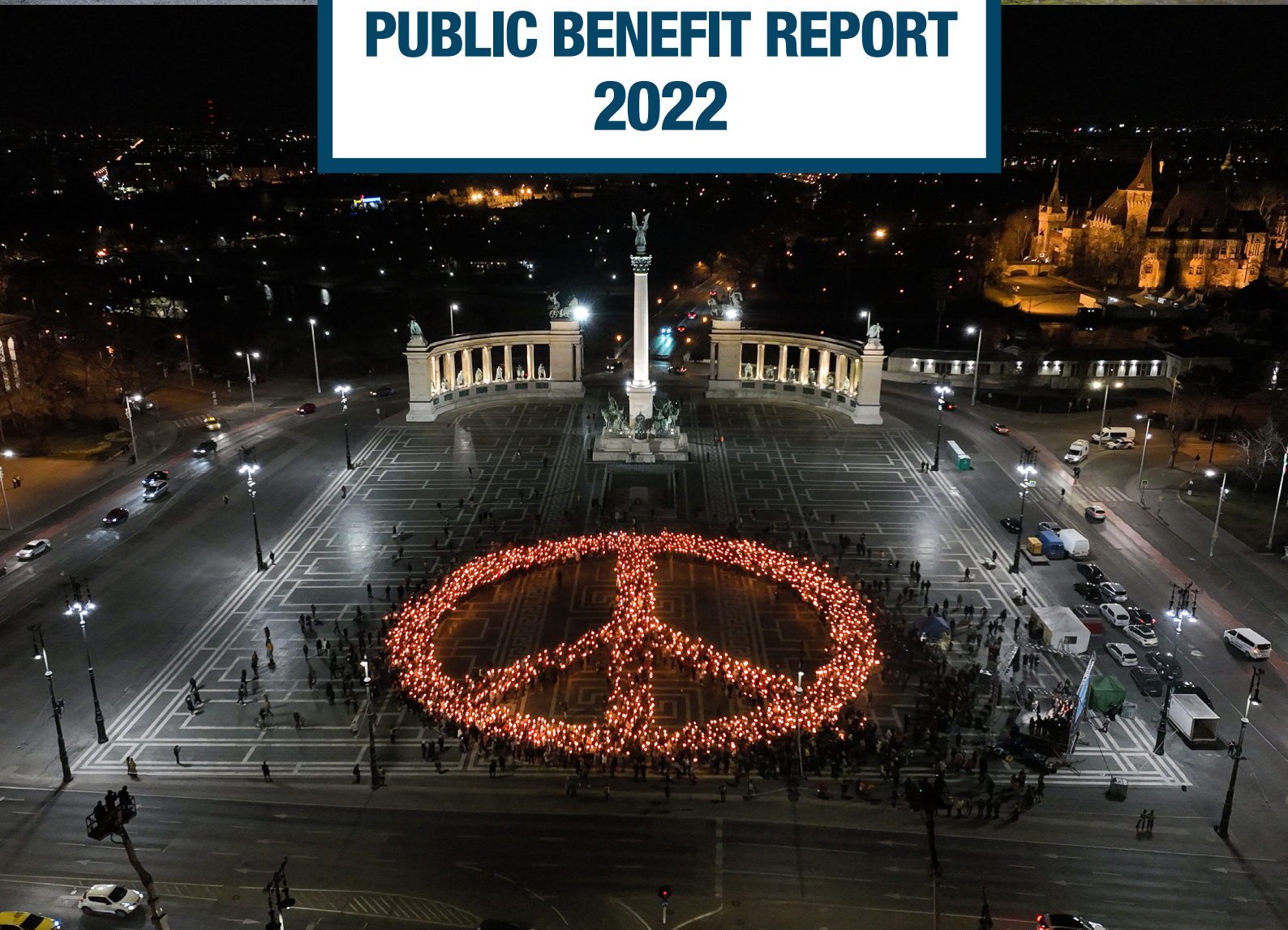




GREENPEACE HUNGARY

ANNUAL PUBLIC BENEFIT REPORT 2022



Preface

János Bálint Mező

Office Director, Greenpeace Hungary

In 2022, what seemed unimaginable to many of us actually happened: Russia invaded Ukraine and war broke out in a neighbouring country. We are appalled by the senseless violence that claims innocent lives, incites fear and hatred in a world where solidarity and joint action are essential if we want to survive this century.

The name of Greenpeace has been synonymous with peace since the beginning. Non-violence is one of our core principles. We are fighting for a world that is not dominated by terrible conflict, but co-operation. Where there are no wars for resources and energy, and where we don't have to live in fear of nuclear weapons. We have to work together, seeking partnership, to solve the biggest crises that threaten our future. This is the only way we can effectively fight the climate crisis and the destruction of nature.

This is also the basic principle of our work here. Greenpeace Hungary turned 20 in 2022. Since our foundation, we have been working to ensure that decision-makers take measures that ensure a peaceful and habitable country for people today and for generations to come. Courageously and persistently, we act against decisions that damage our climate and destroy our natural resources.

We achieved a number of milestones in our work in 2022:

- At the beginning of March, together with thousands of others, we stood up for peace in Heroes' Square in Budapest to protest against the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- Our 'STOP PET' campaign contributed to the government announcing that there will be a deposit on drinks packaging in Hungary from 2024.
- Our battle alongside local civilians to protect Lake Fertő bore fruit when it was revealed in the summer that the mega-investment in tourism endangering to nature would be suspended.
- With the co-operation of Greenpeace Hungary, a huge civil coalition was launched against the government's firewood decree.
- In the autumn, the Bolygó community space, founded by Greenpeace and Fryshuset as part of an international initiative, moved into its own place, offering a location for young people, organisations and movements keen on going green.

We are and will remain politically and financially independent. We make a brave stand for important issues affecting the environment and nature, as well as for the protection of wildlife and humanity.



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“While the world is becoming an increasingly uncertain place due to the ecological and climate crisis caused by human activity, we lost an additional sense of security in 2022 with the horror of the war in Ukraine. In Hungary, we had to deal with the refugee crisis, the energy crisis, galloping inflation and an unprecedented drought in summer, accompanied by the shock of withering cornfields at the same time. Meanwhile, the government gave increasingly worse responses to these challenges. Despite the fact that the crisis provided us with the opportunity to get rid of climate-destroying fossil fuels, money is pouring into coal, gas and oil at an accelerating rate. Instead of protecting nature, they facilitated the destruction of forests and limited the spread of solar energy. Nevertheless, we managed to get thousands of people to stand up for peace in Budapest and to create a coalition against the government's firewood decree. And our struggle together with local civilians to protect Lake Fertő bore fruit, as a mega-investment imperilling nature was suspended. We would like to thank everyone who, despite all the difficulties, continued to stand by us and our goals, and whose support helped us in our work.”

János Bálint Mező,
Office Director of Greenpeace Hungary

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Our campaign for climate protection

2022 was a decisive year. In February, Russia invaded Ukraine, which started a savage war in Europe. Meanwhile, parliamentary elections were held in Hungary. Both events highlighted the fact that it is now more important than ever that many of us take a stand for a green and peaceful future.

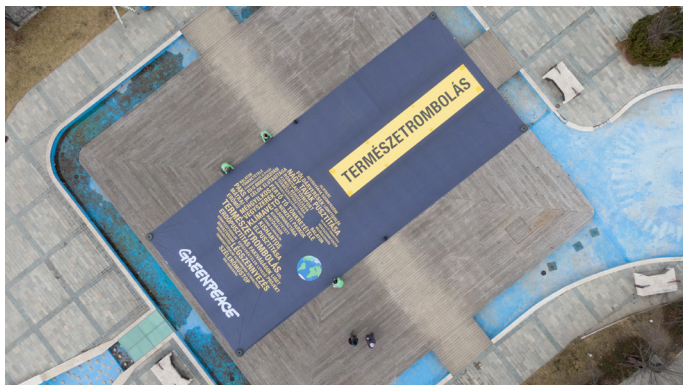
At the beginning of the year, [we launched our Climate Election 2022 campaign](#), within the framework of which we asked election candidates to sign a green statement. And in the light of Russia's aggression in Ukraine, it has become even more obvious that we must eliminate fossil fuels and take measures that will quickly reduce Hungary's energy dependence. Through our activities for phasing out dirty energy and through public opinion polls and an open letter, we demanded immediate action from decision makers.

In the autumn, the government made the development of domestic solar-powered infrastructure impossible with a single stroke of a pen, so [we launched a petition](#) against this ill-advised decision.

Climate election 2022: we ask the candidates in the parliamentary election to sign a green declaration

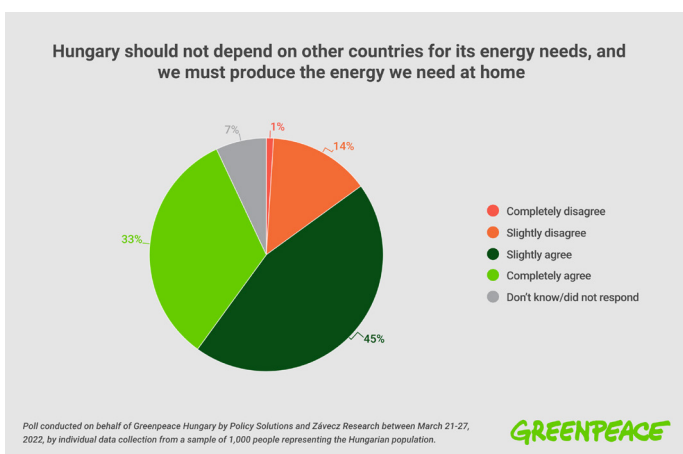
We launched our [Climate Election 2022 campaign](#) three months before the parliamentary elections. Within this framework, we approached every candidate running in all 106 constituencies, and asked them to sign our green statement and undertake to make their decisions on the basis of basic environmental and nature protection if they were elected. On our [klimaválasztas2022.hu](#) website, anyone could check whether the candidates of their own constituency had signed the statement, and by visiting the page, anyone could write an e-mail to the candidates running in their constituency, encouraging them to commit to green issues.





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In the meantime, we also organised a [nationwide tour](#) to focus attention on the systematic environmental and natural destruction taking place in Hungary. One of the key characters in the series of events from Debrecen to Balaton was the all-devouring Pac-Man figure known from the video games, which was made up of words giving concrete examples of how the government is threatening Hungary's natural values and climate security.



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We campaign for the phasing out of fossil fuels and for energy independence

Russia's war against Ukraine has further highlighted the need to get rid of fossil fuels causing energy dependence. At the meeting of the European Council on March 24-25, they discussed, among other things, how the EU could separate itself from Russian energy. [We called on the Hungarian government](#) to take immediate steps to reduce our dependence on Russian fossil fuels, our country's purchase of which indirectly supports President Putin's war. We asked Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán to speak for these motions at the EU summit as well.

We also highlighted the fact that Hungary must reduce its use of fossil gas and oil by at least 50% by 2030, and must get rid of Russian energy without replacing it with fossil fuels from elsewhere. At the same time, we emphasised the need to prepare for possible supply difficulties in the next heating season. It has now become even more obvious that Hungary's energy independence can only be achieved with renewables, and energy-saving and energy-efficient investment.

In the last week of March, the analytical institute Policy Solutions and ZRI Závecz Research conducted a [public opinion poll](#) on our behalf. This made it clear that more than three-quarters of Hungarians believe that Hungary should produce the energy it needs at home, freeing it from the other countries, especially Russia, it depends upon on for gas.

In April, we also [published](#) Greenpeace's international analysis entitled *Unhooking Europe from Oil* in Hungary. In it, we compiled a ten-point package of proposals for the transformation of transport, the application of which could significantly reduce oil consumption in the EU. Then together with eight NGOs, we wrote an [open letter](#) to municipal leaders in Budapest and city districts, asking them as well to take ambitious measures to reduce the use of oil.

We also sent a message to decision-makers that we must get rid of fossil fuels with the sign, ["BLOOD PROFIT: SHAME!"](#) projected on the petroleum refinery of Hungarian Oil & Gas (MOL) at Százhalombatta. While MOL's profit increased by 38% in the first quarter of 2022 compared to 2021, Hungary was preparing to veto the European embargo on Russian oil, citing objections due to security of supply and other excuses. We then continued our series of actions. In Budapest, we sent a message to the Prime Minister with a sign projected onto the House of Representatives, ["NO MORE BLOOD OIL!"](#), then we [demonstrated with oil barrels](#) outside Parliament on Kossuth tér.

In July, we responded in a [press release](#) to the government's new announcements on the acceleration of fossil fuels. We stressed that the gas crisis should not be handled by encouraging the use of fossil energy sources with additional subsidies. Responses to the crisis must be provided that do not jeopardise climate goals.



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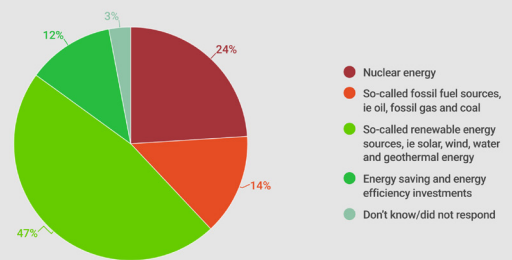
In the autumn, Greenpeace activists put up a [“SPEED LIMIT NOW!”](#) banner across the Budaörsi út overpass, highlighting the fact that the solution to the energy crisis cannot be reached without radical energy saving. The maximum speed limit on motorways must therefore be reduced to 100 km/hr instead of the current 130 km/hr. This would result in lower consumption by about 23%.

Meanwhile, we continued to campaign against nuclear energy. We published our [position](#) on the plans to extend the lifespan of nuclear plant Paks I, in which we explained why this was an unnecessary, harmful and dangerous measure.

We also published the results of our [new poll](#), which showed that Hungarians want green energy instead of gas and oil dependence. It was clear from the answers that, according to the majority of citizens, Hungary's energy needs and energy independence should be ensured primarily by supporting renewables, and energy-saving and energy-efficient investment, and that Hungary should stop using fossil gas by 2035 at the latest.

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If you could decide which of the following energy developments the Hungarian government should primarily spend money on, which would you support?



Poll conducted on behalf of Greenpeace Hungary by Policy Solutions and Závecz Research between September 14-22, 2022, by individual data collection from a sample of 1,000 people representing the Hungarian population.

GREENPEACE

We launch a petition against the restriction of solar-panel installation

In October, we launched our [petition](#) *Solar energy for every family!* to make solar panels as widely available as possible and to further expand the number of Hungarian families who can reduce their utility costs with the help of solar energy.

At the same time, we sharply criticised the government's recent decree which prohibited new solar systems from feeding into the grid, thus denying hundreds of thousands the opportunity to reduce their energy costs with climate-friendly renewable energy.





We demonstrate for peace

Barely two weeks after the start of Russia's war against Ukraine, we took a symbolic stand against aggression in order to send a message to world leaders. The crises of the 21st century cannot be solved by military means, and there is no longer any place for violence on Earth. We invited people to a dramatic [demonstration](#) and stand together for peace.

We make a giant peace sign on Heroes' Square to protest against the war

On the evening of March 9, Heroes' Square in Budapest was bathed in the light of torches. In our [demonstration for peace](#), we joined in with thousands of others to protest the invasion of Ukraine and to express our sympathy for the innocent people suffering because of the war. The crowd holding torches formed a huge peace sign.

At the event, 13-year-old Patrizia from Ukraine, and Natasha, who moved to Hungary with her family from Russia years ago, spoke together for peace. They gave their speech in Hungarian and in their mother tongue. The Csíkszerda choir led by Árpád Tóth performed with more than 100 participants, who together with the whole crowd sang *Dona Nobis Pacem* ('Give Us Peace!'). Presenting the event was award-winning actor Dorottya Udvaros. János Bálint Mező, Office Director of Greenpeace Hungary, also [gave a speech](#), saying: "This war is an energy war, which is financed by the Russian state from its oil, gas and coal revenues. A prerequisite for peace is to get out of energy dependence as soon as possible, and for this we have to switch to renewables".



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Thirty-seven NGOs also took part in the demonstration. Our protest sent the message that we are the majority, those who do not speak the language of hatred and violence, but of love and solidarity. We are fighting for a world where wars funded by oil, gas and coal will end. We believe that today the only fight that has a place in the world is the fight against the climate and ecological crisis.



Our campaign to preserve biodiversity

Together with local citizens and civil society organisations, in 2022 we protested on several fronts to stop the state-financed tourism investment putting nature in peril at Lake Fertő. Having uncovered irregularities, we took further legal steps in the case, and Greenpeace activists [took action](#) alongside actor Dorottya Udvaros to protect this precious habitat. In the summer, a ray of hope appeared when it was revealed that the investment endangering nature at Lake Fertő would be [suspended](#).

We also acted to protect the precious forests in Hungary's national parks, after the government, in a sudden decree, abolished restrictions on felling trees set out in the Nature Conservation Act. This allowed for the chopping down of Hungary's protected forests even during the nesting season. Together with civilians, we organised a [demonstration](#) in Budapest, wrote an [open letter](#) to the Hungarian Prime Minister, conducted a [public opinion poll](#) on the matter, and also [campaigned with a huge symbol depicting an axe](#) on a cleared hillside in the Bükk National Park.

The North Hungarian Mountains form part of the Carpathians, so at the end of the year we joined the international coalition and [petition](#) aimed at protecting this unique habitat. Then we highlighted the serial destruction of nature taking place there with an [art film](#) shot in a cleared protected area.

In 2022, we continued our work to ensure that as many local organic foods as possible reach domestic canteens, as well as to [reduce the staggering amount of food waste](#) generated in public catering.

We continue to fight for the protection of Lake Fertő

On December 24, 2021, a new public procurement was issued for the investment at Lake Fertő, whose dimensions were even larger than the data included in the environmental permits, featuring buildings for which the state company had no permit. Therefore, at the beginning of the year, we again [attacked the public-procurement tender](#), continuing to demand that the government immediately stop the seriously illegal investment endangering nature, against which even experts at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences have spoken out.

The Public Procurement Decision Committee's answer arrived quickly: based on the relevant regulations, [they demanded we pay a procedural fee of 25 million forints](#) (around €67,000) for evaluating the Fertő application. In the meantime, it turned out that the budget for the investment in Fertő had already topped 45 billion forints (around €120 million).

In February, [Greenpeace activists went to Lake Fertő](#) to demand that the construction be stopped by forming a human chain and suspending a banner on scaffolding two storeys high. Actor Dorottya Udvaros also joined the activists. With their non-violent action, they highlighted the fact that it is unacceptable that in a national park, instead of protecting the living world, a luxury investment is being prioritised for the economic benefit of a privileged few.



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After his previous highly successful video, comedian Gergely Litkai came out with another [sarcastic short film](#) in March, this time with Dorottya Udvaros demonstrating the legal absurdities of Lake Fertő and other key investments within protected areas. Both videos were created in co-operation with Greenpeace, and generated a total of nearly 900,000 views.



In May, [we served another writ](#), after the Győr-Moson-Sopron County Government Office issued a new licence, full of holes, for the giant public investment at Lake Fertő. By doing so, they were attempting to correct the series of legal violations of the investment by issuing an environmental operating licence. This we then challenged in the relevant court.

With the help of local civilians, after a long battle we achieved our first victory in the defence of Fertő in the summer of 2022. That is when it became clear that the investment putting nature in peril at Lake Fertő [would be stopped](#). The public procurement, required for the work to continue, was declared ineffective on the grounds that there were not enough funds to cover it.

We welcomed the decision, but at the same time we highlighted the fact that the construction must be stopped not only temporarily, but permanently. We continued to emphasise that only small-scale development that harmonises ecological aspects with local needs is acceptable, as this is the path towards gentle ecotourism.

However, the legal tug-of-war is not over. Back in 2021, [we filed a lawsuit](#) against the administrative decision of the Győr-Moson-Sopron County Government Office, because, at the request of the investor, they had allowed dredging in the construction area not only during the winter, but all year round.

In December 2022, [the court rejected our claim with an astounding assertion](#): according to its reasoning, the Lake Fertő investment would only violate the Natura 2000 regulation if the activity threatened the survival of an entire species or its habitat.

Nevertheless, we will not give up the fight, and we will continue to defend Fertő at all possible levels. We would also like to thank the local civilians for their work, who have been fighting with us for years to protect Lake Fertő.

A huge civil alliance is launched against a government decree that is destroying Hungary's forests

On August 4, a decree by the Hungarian government, which virtually [abolished the previous restrictions](#) set by law to protect forests and their wildlife, caused a huge public outcry. Citing the energy crisis, the government facilitated logging in protected natural areas, including those within national parks, and even during nesting season, to meet the growing demand for firewood. Together with several green organisations, we wrote an open letter, free for all to sign, to Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, asking him to withdraw the government decree.

Then, together with more than 30 civil organisations, we set up a large-scale demonstration in front of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, where thousands demanded the withdrawal of the government decree, now infamous as the 'firewood decree'. In addition to representatives from these organisations, several well-known personalities spoke at the event, and Dr Jane Goodall [expressed her concerns](#) in a personal video message.



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At the end of the summer, we published [the results of our public opinion poll](#) on the matter, which showed that the overwhelming majority of Hungarians rejects the government's handling of the energy crisis by facilitating logging.

However, this did not put an end to our anxiety about logging in Hungary's protected forests. We received [the government's response](#) to the open letter we wrote with five other green NGOs on the firewood regulation, which was signed by more than 110,000 people. The answer written by the Ministry of Agriculture did not acknowledge that the relaxations in the government decree endangered the natural values of the forests.

In the meantime, decision-makers dealt another blow to Hungary's natural values. In October, Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén submitted a bill to Parliament that would allow [Hungary's nature conservation areas to be transferred](#) to private hands. In response, we issued our demand that the government immediately withdraw this bill and ensure the preservation of Hungary's protected natural values at the highest possible level.

In November, we emphasised that we would not give up our fight for nature protection: [we put up a sign depicting a giant axe](#) crossed out in red in a cleared area in the Bükk National Park to highlight the unbridled destruction of nature taking place before our very eyes.



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Then, on the eve of the opening day of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15), established under the auspices of the United Nations, we joined a series of international activities. With a [symbolic light painting](#) depicting the web of life on an iconic Budapest landmark, Gellért Hill, we told decision-makers that nature must be protected in order for our civilisation to survive.



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We join the international campaign for the protection of the Carpathians

In the autumn, we launched our campaign for the [protection of the precious forests of the Carpathians](#), stressing in Hungary as well, that Europe's natural heritage was in danger. We made the related international [petition](#) available in Hungarian, too.

With the participation of young artists, we also made a passionate [video to highlight the destruction of nature](#) and its serious consequences by means of contemporary dance. The production was filmed in the Bükk National Park, amid the stumps of felled oak trees. The Bükk and the entire North Hungarian Mountains are part of the Carpathians, whose shocking destruction has been outlined in an [international report](#). With its dramatic sequences, the short film made here highlights the fact that the decline in the diversity of the living world has already reached a level that threatens the survival of our civilisation, and makes the message of the video a burning issue: how long does life last?



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We continue to work for the spread of eco-friendly public catering

In February, we announced an awareness campaign for kindergartens and schools, the [Zero Waste March](#). The topic is also important because, despite the growing economic difficulties in Hungary, tens of thousands of tons of food waste are generated in public catering every year. This terrible waste has an impact on the living world and the climate, as it requires more to be produced and needlessly destroyed, so we use a lot of energy and other resources for nothing. As part of Zero Waste March, we published and distributed [waste-reducing tips](#) in the press and on social media with the involvement of catering professionals.

In April, we held an eco-canteen workshop in Halimba, a small settlement in Transdanubia. Those who took part in the session oversee nearly 6,000 portions of food every day, ie they have an impact on the care of many children and adults (including communal meals and in nursing homes). Even if we contribute just a little to improving the feeding of so many people, that's something.

In the autumn, we continued to make educational videos. We shot a [film](#) about public-catering reform in Dabas, where the amount of food thrown away was practically reduced to zero by a number of measures, and the money saved is invested back into improving the service. Thanks to this example, we initiated a move for the elimination of food waste at national level. The buffet system we presented was tested at two locations by one of the largest catering companies in Hungary, which prepares 200,000 portions every day. With this method, they managed to reduce the waste ratio from 20% to 10%, so the new system will be introduced in 16 cities across Hungary from the spring of 2023.



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Our campaign to eradicate plastic pollution

In 2022, we continued to work to reduce the use of disposable plastic packaging in Hungary, and to make packaging-free and reusable, refillable systems widely available. A total of 55,000 people signed our petition demanding returnable drinks packaging and their mandatory recycling, which [we delivered to the government](#) in the summer. Our work contributed to the government [announcing](#) that, as of January 1, 2024, returnable drinks packaging will be compulsory in Hungary.

In April, we launched a new campaign in which we [assessed](#) how much waste packaging the largest grocery store chains in Hungary are inflicting upon the planet. We also issued a [publication](#) in which we formulated professional recommendations on how to halve the disposable plastic packaging used in stores over the next five years. At the end of the year, the results of our survey spanning several months were released when we published [the plastic and waste ranking of domestic grocery stores](#).

VICTORY: The government announces a deposit for drinks packaging

On the first day of plastic-free July, we took [a gift package made up of 40,000 PET bottles](#) to the minister responsible for environmental protection and waste management, highlighting the fact that even more PET bottles are sold across Hungary every 15 minutes. Along with the PET bale, we delivered our petition, in which 55,000 people asked the government to finally make the full recycling of single-use drinks packaging mandatory, and to oblige manufacturers and distributors to use returnable and refillable packaging.

After the event, we also sent our questions to the relevant ministry by letter. In his written response, the minister promised that [PET bottles would be returnable](#) in Hungary as of 2024. This is a welcome and long-awaited step that we have been working towards for years. The measure is expected to significantly increase the rate of recycling and thus reduce the generation of packaging waste. However, our fight to reduce disposable packaging is not over: both manufacturers and distributors must be forced to introduce refills.

We assess how much waste packaging grocery stores in Hungary are inflicting upon the planet

In the spring, [we launched a new campaign](#) for the elimination of single-use packaging material. We contacted the nine largest grocery store chains in Hungary to examine their plastic footprint. We duly reached out to ALDI, Auchan, CBA, Coop, Lidl, PENNY, Real, SPAR and Tesco, and asked these companies to share their waste-reduction plans with us. At most stores, customers are faced with the fact that fruit, vegetables, baked goods and other products are wrapped in several layers of plastic, and returnable bottles are hardly seen on the shelves.

For the survey, we put together a detailed specialist questionnaire so that, based on the data provided by each company, we could investigate and evaluate how much packaging material each store uses, how it handles waste, as well as what measures it has taken so far and plans to take in the near future to reduce the waste it generates.

During the campaign, however, we did not only rely on the data received from the companies. With the help of our activists, we assessed, among other things, what proportion of fruit and vegetables was available without packaging in the stores concerned, and whether they stocked mineral water, soft drinks and other drinks in returnable or refillable packaging.

In order to provide companies with good examples, we also [prepared a publication](#) for grocery stores in Hungarian, in which we made professional recommendations, mainly referring to the UK model, on how the disposable plastic packaging used in shops could be halved in the next five years.

A HAZAI ÉLELMISZERBOLTOK 2022-ES MŰANYAG- ÉS SZEMÉTRANGSORA

SPAR	72%
AUCHAN	63%
TESCO	56%
LIDL	47%
ALDI	45%
PENNY	31%
CBA	22%
COOP	18%
REÁL	11%

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In December, we evaluated the data collected during the previous months and published the 2022 plastic and waste ranking of Hungarian grocery stores in a [comprehensive report](#). In the analysis, we came to the conclusion that the majority of the surveyed shops need improvement if they want to reduce their plastic pollution. This is why [we also launched a petition](#) in which we asked supermarket chains to halve the use of single-use plastic packaging materials within five years and remove non-recyclable packaging materials.

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Our campaign for a toxic-free Hungary

In 2022, we acted in many pollution cases in several parts of the country. Given the years of incompetence on the part of the Hungarian authorities, [we turned to the European Commission and the UN](#) regarding the illegal poison warehouse on Illatos út in Budapest. In May, we became involved in the [investigation of the pollution of the Sajó](#). We took samples from the sediment of the river several times, in which the laboratory tests showed significant arsenic pollution.

In addition, we put our expertise to good use in assisting in the efforts of local NGOs and affected residents in several potential industrial pollution cases. In July, near the Samsung factory in Göd, we [tested](#) whether the air had been polluted by the solvent NMP (N-Methyl-2-pyrrolidone) used in battery production.

We notify international organisations about a poison warehouse on Illatos út

[We filed a submission](#) with the European Commission and the UN regarding the illegal poison warehouse on Illatos út in Budapest. We aim to see to it that the secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, which operates under the auspices of the UN, and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Environmental Protection, responsible for the implementation of the Convention in the EU, put pressure on the Hungarian government to comply with international conventions and clean the basement of a warehouse on Illatos út from approximately 100 tons of carcinogenic chemicals. We highlighted the fact that although the environmental protection authority has been aware of this pollution since 2015, it has done nothing except try to force a bankrupt company into removing the dangerous substances.

We measure arsenic pollution above the set limit in the Sajó river

In February 2022, a reddish discolouration of the water was noticed in the upper Slovakian section of the Sajó. The Slovakian authorities determined that the pollution originated from the bankrupt former Siderit iron ore mine. Meanwhile, for months, the pollution poured into the river uncontrollably, almost completely destroying the wild-life in a section of the upper reaches of the Sajó. In co-operation with Slovak Greenpeace, in May we went to the area of Sajópüspöki, located on the Hungarian side of the Slovak border, to take samples of the river water and the upper layer of sediment. Laboratory tests [showed arsenic contamination](#) above the set limit in the sediment. In light of these results, we demanded a detailed sediment test from the relevant authorities.

In September, [we revisited the Sajó](#) to examine how much its arsenic pollution had changed since our previous measurements in May. During the September investigation, our experts took sediment samples at three points of the river located in Slovakia, and at Sajópüspöki on the Hungarian section, in order to assess the route of the pollution and the extent to which the water carried away the toxic substances. In samples taken near the Hungarian border on the Slovak side, the test results showed arsenic contamination almost six times higher than the legal limit in Hungary. Laboratory tests for the Sajópüspöki samples showed that arsenic contamination on the Hungarian side were just below that limit, but we pointed out that with more rain, new waves of pollution could be expected to reach the domestic section.

In view of all this, we continued to demand that the Hungarian authorities extend their investigations beyond the waters of the Sajó to the sediment of the river, as it became clear that high concentrations of toxic metals could be detected. In addition, we called on the Slovak authorities to make public their own measurement results as quickly as possible.



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We measure the solvent pollution in the air at the battery factory in Göd

In the spring, measurements by the Göd-ÉRT Environmental and City Protection Association found NMP (N-Methyl-2-pyrrolidone) contamination in wells near the Samsung factory. At the request of the association, and in close co-operation with the local organisation, [we examined the air](#) near the plant for NMP used in battery production. The measuring devices were then evaluated at the independent laboratory of WESSLING Kft. The laboratory test did not reveal NMP air pollution while it was being measured, but we highlighted the need for further tests to clarify the source of the industrial solvent seeping into the wells around the battery factory.

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Volunteering and movements

Our volunteer team is an integral part of our operation – our activities couldn't be carried out without them. Their enthusiastic help, their time devoted to environmental protection, their creative energy and diverse knowledge are essential for the carrying out of our various events and surveys. Without their participation, we would not be able to effectively fight for the protection of our climate, the protection of our waters, the preservation of our natural values and for a plastic-free Hungary.

In the year 2022, the coronavirus epidemic was already on the decline here, but it still had not completely disappeared. However, this was the year the Russian-Ukrainian war broke out. This external influence put a lot of pressure on Greenpeace volunteers and activists alike, since, as the organisation's name implies, standing up for peace plays a very important role in our work. But with our cohesive team, we managed to cope with the new challenges posed by external circumstances, so together we overcame everyday obstacles with unbroken faith. The enthusiasm of our activists prevailed, and over the course of the year we also attracted many new applicants who joined the Greenpeace team.

Many new volunteers sign up at our information sessions

In 2022, we held seven information sessions, where new interested participants and those wishing to join came in large numbers. Some events lasted for a few hours on a weekday evening, some ran for an entire Saturday. We continued to provide the opportunity to participate online, thereby overcoming any potential travel difficulties. During the information sessions, participants could learn about the work of Greenpeace and the opportunities our activism provides. This year, our volunteer team added 194 new members. This increased the number of our registered volunteers to more than 3,750.

Our activists and volunteers took part in countless activities in 2022 as well. We continued to organise events online, but in addition, they were able to participate in international and domestic events in person. In terms of numbers, they took part in around 160 events and contributed a total of more than 10,000 hours, or 1,250 working days, to Greenpeace activities.

Most of our volunteer team lives in Budapest, but activists continue to come from many parts of the country. Whether it is Kecskemét, Pécs, Székesfehérvár, Veszprém or Tatabánya, distance is no object.

Our volunteers help with our work on the front line

From the beginning of 2022, our volunteers took an active part in the [implementation of our Climate Election 2022 campaign](#), within the framework of which they contacted parliamentary candidates and approached them through personal meetings.

In February, they [blocked the road](#) leading to the construction site at Lake Fertő for a whole day, and soon afterwards they [helped deliver our huge banner](#) depicting a Pac-Man figure to main points around the country, for us to highlight the destruction of nature and the environment in Hungary. At the beginning of spring and after the outbreak of war, our work for peace came to the fore. Mobilising a record number of volunteers and activists, we managed to [organise a torchlight stand for peace](#) at the beginning of March, in which more than 700 of our volunteers participated. In addition, our activists provided weekly help to the refugees who came to Hungary from Ukraine. During the process, we focused on the spiritual and emotional wellbeing of our volunteers and provided them with the opportunity to participate in situations where they could work through the difficulties caused by the horrors of the war with the help of an expert.



© Zsuzsi Dörög / Greenpeace

In July, with their help, [we delivered](#) our 'STOP PET' petition to the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, and in August, with only a few days' planning, they joined us in organising a civil demonstration as a protest against tree felling.

In the autumn, the protection of natural diversity became the focus, as [our activists placed a sign](#) in the shape of a huge axe in a cleared area of the Bükk National Park.

Our activists also participated in the creation of various signs related to our campaigns: several times, for example, they helped us paint banners. In addition to all of this, the members of our volunteer team took part in rubbish-collection campaigns and festival outings, helped local communities and staged environmental lectures in various schools. Whatever the activity, the enthusiasm and perseverance of our volunteers remain exemplary.

We hold training sessions for our volunteers

In 2022, we organised many events for our volunteers where they could become acquainted with our campaigns in more detail. They could continue to join either online or in person, thus giving a chance for people living further away to participate. This year, we held three full-day online training sessions for new members, where we presented the deeper layers of how volunteering and activism work.



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We participate in international Greenpeace activities

In 2022, the further strengthening of online activities also provided an opportunity for volunteer teams in the Central and Eastern European region to build closer ties with each other. With the easing of the coronavirus epidemic, our activists were also able to join international activities. This included the [seizing of a gas rig](#) in the Croatian Adriatic, and in France, by hacking a series of events intended for advertising agencies, [they highlighted the greenwashing](#) by polluting companies.



© Bojan-Haron Markicevic / Greenpeace

Our volunteers carry out their own activities in 2022

This year, too, our volunteers devoted much time to improving their knowledge of environmental protection by sharing it with each other, so they organised countless workshops, trips, lecture series and discussions on green topics. They held a team-building event, during which they discovered various points of Hungary's National Blue Tour route, and then cleaned up the Körösök area as part of a rubbish-clearance canoe tour. But they also organized a two-day triathlon event, in which they cycled, hiked and swam along the Tisza river. In 2022, they also joined rubbish collection campaigns launched by other organisations, such as the TeSzedd initiative, and they also participated in a similar event in the Mátra hills within the framework of Tiszta Erdőkért Egyesület, the Association for Clean Forests.

They did not miss the festival season in 2022 either, where they helped with the preparations for various events. We appeared at the Charity Fest organised by the Budapest Bike Maffia and Waldorfeszt, while Hungary's biggest music event could not be left out, so we were also present throughout the Sziget Festival.

At the end of the year, our volunteers threw themselves into the renovation of the Bolygó community space when it moved to its new permanent location on Margit körút in Budapest – Bolygó is intended for young people keen on green issues.



© Szuzsi Dörög / Greenpeace

There was no shortage of activities and events in 2022 either, so we enter the new year with great enthusiasm. We strive to be able to help solve the climate and ecological crisis with even more new applicants and active events.

We support young people engaged in climate protection

In 2022, we also provided all professional and logistical support to the young climate-protection movement, so that despite the various crises happening in the world, they can continue to focus on the gravity of the climate crisis. There were climate strikes again in Budapest and in many parts of the country, and this year young people also put a lot of emphasis on connecting movements that are active in public life.



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In 2022, we also organised a Climate Camp, focused on becoming a team and building relationships. We continue to provide all help to our volunteers and activists.



© Rosanna Pongrácz

We take the Bolygó community space one step further

Bolygó ('Planet One') was opened in 2021, a community space in Budapest that provides a venue for young people, organisations and movements keen on going green. Bolygó primarily builds bridges between young people interested in environmental protection through arts, culture and music. Bolygó was founded by Greenpeace and Fryshuset as part of an international project, Planet One.



© Bence Járdány / Greenpeace

Within the framework of Bolygó, we organised more than 100 events in 2022, in which nearly 1,500 young people took part. The Bolygó team put together a variety of events so that every young person could find the one best suited for them: they organised various workshops on climate justice, permaculture, sustainable fashion and activism. There was banner painting, drama sessions, garden visits and clothes repair, while various green movements also visited Bolygó to hold their own related events. In addition, there was an acoustic concert, board-game sessions and an excursion.

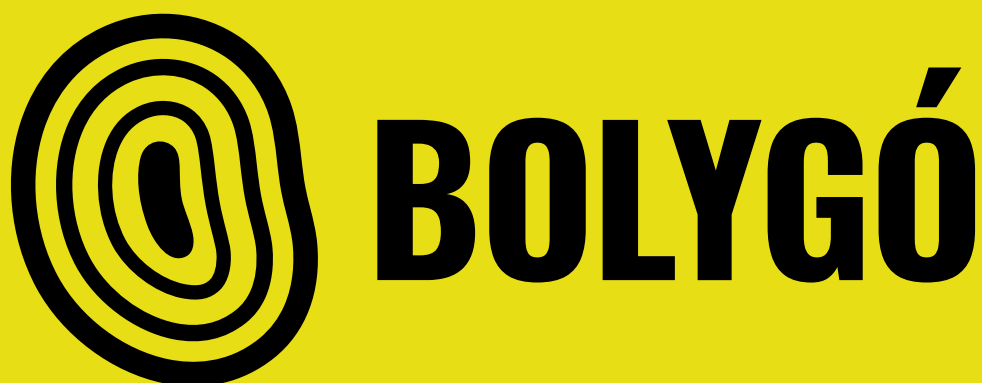
In the first half of 2022, Bolygó was temporarily located at the Turbina Cultural Centre. In the autumn, Bolygó moved into its own place on Margit körút. This new green community space forms part of the Margit neighbourhood scheme of the II. District Council, a regeneration initiative that has started to rejuvenate Margit körút and its surroundings.

Towards the end of the year, the Bolygó team was busy with the renovation and design of the new location. The renovation was carried out together with the community and the involvement of volunteers, underlining that the space belongs to young people who can actively participate in the organisation of events and in furnishing the new place. The aim was to create a space that would most help young people initiate new events, movements and get to know new communities.



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One of the main objectives of Bolygó is for young people to initiate independent projects using the knowledge they have acquired. These we support with various resources, primarily knowledge and space. In 2022, the Bolygó team participated, among other things, in research on green movements and provided a space to present their results, while also helping to organise the local leg of the global climate strike. With the support of Bolygó, a documentary film was produced about Lake Balaton, and the team was also involved in the organisation of its premiere.





Fundraising

We are a politically and financially independent environmental organisation

Since our inception, our revenue has come exclusively from private individuals and foundations set up by private individuals, on the one hand from Hungary and on the other, from the Greenpeace office for Central and Eastern Europe. We do not accept any financial support from states, governments, parties, companies, either in Hungary or in other parts of the world. This guarantees our complete political and financial independence.

Which sources allow us to operate?

Greenpeace Hungary is part of Greenpeace Central and Eastern Europe, which includes eight countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia). In addition to Hungarian supporters, more than 170,000 private donors who support the Greenpeace Central and Eastern European office also contribute to our operations, and Greenpeace Hungary also benefits from their donations.

In 2022, Greenpeace Hungary received 273,768,581 forints' worth of support from the Central and Eastern European Greenpeace Office.

We currently have more than 10,000 active supporters in Hungary. Among them, our regular donors contribute an average of around 2,000 forints a month to our work. The total amount of donations in Hungary in 2022 was 148,276,752 forints.

Our domestic fundraising work and revenue in 2022

In 2022, our regular donors helped our environmental work with a total of 109,665,286 forints. During 2022, we collected a total of 19,968,685 forints from 1% personal income tax.

In 2022, we received 3,540,290 forints' worth of support through our fundraising letters sent by post.

In 2022, we continued our telephone fundraising campaign. We contacted donors who had already supported our environmental protection work with a one-time donation, and 274 of them supported us again. We also contacted previous regular donors who were no longer active, asking them to support our work again on a monthly basis if they had the chance, and as a result, 151 of them rejoined. We also called some of our regular supporters with the request that they increase the amount of their donation according to their means, and 324 of them did. The amount of regular donations received from telephone fundraising campaigns is included in our total regular revenue.

During 2022, we offered our donors a Greenpeace calendar as a gift on our website, which generated 500,390 forints in revenue for that year.



We informed those interested in our work about our current campaigns through various channels (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, e-mail newsletters, petitions, website) and asked them to support our activities with their donations. In this way, in 2022 our organisation received a total of 11,575,901 forints in donations, as well as support through one-time bank transfers and bank-card transactions.

At the end of 2022, we continued our online fundraising campaign, *The Face of Nature*, for the protection of biodiversity, in which supporters were offered organic cotton canvas bags and unique organic cotton Greenpeace T-shirts promoting the protection of animals. Hungarian singer Juci Németh and actor Adél Jordán also joined in with the Christmas campaigns. In total, 284 people joined in with the fundraiser and the campaign revenue for the current year was 3,026,200 forints. The campaign can be seen on the website <https://greenpeace.hu/atermeszetarcai>.

Thank you very much once again for all your support!

We are an ethical fundraising organisation

The Greenpeace Hungary Association is a member of a group of [Ethical Fundraising Organisations](#) and complies in all respects with the strict requirements of the Code of Ethics. All this guarantees that we carry out our fundraising work in a transparent manner, exceeding the required legal framework.



ETIKUS
ADOMÁNYGYŰJTŐ
SZERVEZET

The Greenpeace Hungary Association has been operating since 2002. Financially and politically independent, it is a non-profit, environmental protection organisation for the common good, with a solid base of more than 10,000 Hungarian donors and hundreds of thousands of online followers. We work to protect our natural environment and for the health of all to make Hungary a cleaner, more liveable country.

Currently, there are Greenpeace offices in more than 55 countries around the world, including Greenpeace Hungary. As part of the Central and Eastern European Region (CEE), we work with seven other countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia). We have a common name, goal and values, persistently, openly and boldly raising awareness of environmental problems – and their solutions – through non-violent means. We actively work for positive change for a liveable and peaceful future.



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