GREENPEACE HUNGARY
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Preface

János Bálint Mező, Office Director of Greenpeace Hungary

In 2021, scientists around the world warned us again. We have until 2030 to act to prevent the catastrophic effects of the climate crisis. The report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change shows that we will face ever more severe extreme weather events in the future, but the collapse of ice sheets and changes in ocean currents cannot be ruled out. At the same time, we urgently need to find a solution to the ecological crisis, while the nature around us declines to an alarming extent. The coronavirus epidemic has shown all of us the vulnerability of our systems and our health. That is why we must do everything we can to protect the wonderful natural system that keeps us alive.

At Greenpeace Hungary, we steadfastly persevere and strive to ensure that decision-makers take meaningful action to protect the Hungarian population from the serious consequences of environmental crises. We want to ensure that decisions cannot be made in Hungary to the detriment of our climate and natural resources.

We also claimed many successes in our work in 2021:

- The plastic ban came into force in Hungary, which, thanks to our work, also covers the restriction of plastic bags.
- Thanks to our protest, national oil company MOL withdrew its drilling plans for the Őrség National Park.
- We created a historic moment: for the first time in Hungary, candidates for Prime Minister had a roundtable debate on green issues.
- Many years of litigation ended with Kishantos and Greenpeace winning at the High Court.
- Thanks to our campaign activities, the liquidation of the polluted site at Kiskunhalas is now under way.

In 2021, our experts also participated in the work of the National Environmental Council. As a result of our work, the NEC has incorporated Greenpeace's professional viewpoint into a number of areas in its resolution sent to ministries, including the priority given to refilling in waste management and the greening of Danube shipping.

We are financially and politically independent. Seeking co-operation, we work to resolve the biggest crises that threaten our future, to avoid a climate and ecological collapse in Hungary and everywhere around the world. This is the most important task before us if we want our planet to be habitable for future generations.



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In 2021, how we treated nature appeared in a concentrated manner. Destruction in the guise of development is taking place in protected areas: reeds are being cleared, mud is being dredged, concrete is being laid down, nature is being destroyed, so that a luxury hotel, a huge marina and a football pitch with artificial grass can be built, extending into the riverbed. If we do not stop it all, we will permanently destrov what is left of Hundary's unique wildlife. Decision-makers in Hungary must represent the interests of the Hungarian people instead of eradicating and destroying, and supporting the major polluters. We are grateful to everyone who stayed with us this year and supported us in our work.

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János Bálint Mező, Office Director of Greenpeace Hungary

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Our campaign to eliminate plastic pollution

In 2021, targeting political and business decision-makers, we continued to work to replace single-use plastic bottles, bags and cans with reusable and refillable packaging as widely as possible. We addressed an <u>open letter to the government</u> to guarantee the mandatory recycling and refilling of drinks packaging, and we produced an innovative video to call on companies to take substantive action against the plastics crisis.

In April, our volunteers carried out a <u>waste collection and brand audit</u> on Szentendre Island, and in the summer they cleaned along the Körös rivers while rowing in canoes. In July, the day we were waiting for finally came: the <u>ban on plastics</u> came into force in Hungary as well. In the second half of the year, we continued our expert work so that the deposit-fee decree, which will come into force in Hungary from 2023, should definitely help eliminate the mountains of plastic.

SUCCESS: The plastic ban comes into force in Hungary

On 1 July, the EU ban on a range of plastics <u>came into force</u> in Hungary. The regulation covers, among other things, disposable plastic straws, cutlery and cotton buds. We consider it our own success that the Hungarian regulations are even stronger than the EU ban, because the restriction of plastic bags has also been written into law in Hungary. Almost a quarter of a million people signed our petition calling for the ban on plastic bags, the most widely supported environmental petition in Hungary.



We produce an innovative video to call on companies to take action against the plastics crisis

We released a <u>new campaign video</u> about plastics, narrated by popular Hungarian singer Tomi Fluor. The campaign calls on business leaders to take part in resolving the global plastics crisis. The problem today is that the market cannot pass on the responsibility to consumers: it is up to companies to make sustainable solutions available to consumers and to reduce the production and use of disposable plastics as quickly as possible.

On our <u>website linked to the campaign</u>, we also put together a fourpart package of recommendations for companies on what they can do to eliminate plastic waste – including rethinking <u>distribution</u>, <u>prod-</u><u>ucts</u>, <u>packaging</u> and <u>recycling</u>.

We clean waste from part of Szentendre Island and the Körös rivers

In 2021, our activists took part in two waste-collection operations. In April, they joined the Maradjanak a FÁK a Rómain civil group volunteers and <u>collected a total of 80 bags of waste</u> in the wooded area near a branch of the Danube in Szentendre. The assembled waste was inspected by the volunteers to assess exactly from which companies the refuse released into the environment came, a significant part of which was PET bottles. The brand audit showed that the identified waste was mostly connected to well-known major companies such as Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and mineral-water producer Szentkirályi Hungary Ltd.

In the summer, our volunteers took their canoes onto the water and <u>collected waste along the Körös rivers</u>. In four days, more than 30 bags of garbage were collected, most of which were PET bottles. In both cases, the sorted plastic was returned to the recycling system by our volunteers.





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We campaign for the introduction of mandatory recycling and refilling

We welcomed the fact that in February, Parliament again voted in a series of laws which should allow drinks packaging to be redeemable in Hungary from 1 July 2023. As the specific regulations are the duty of a government decree based on these laws, we <u>addressed an open</u> <u>letter</u> to the relevant ministers to ensure that the government guarantees the introduction of a workable, mandatory refund system as soon as possible and that the regulation sets ambitious targets for refilling drinks packaging. <u>In our petition</u>, we continued to expect the government to act in the name of true sustainability.

In July, together with the Humusz Szövetség, the Zöldövezet Társulás and other NGOs, we <u>demanded</u> that the government establish an efficient deposit system for refilling drinks packaging. The claim includes the mandatory refilling quota that we suggested. The <u>resolution was</u> <u>also adopted</u> at the 2021 Annual Meeting of Green NGOs by representatives of the organisations participating in the mandate, making it a common cause for green NGOs.



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Our campaign to conserve biodiversity

We have been working for a decade to make ecological agriculture as widespread in Hungary as possible. Indeed, how we produce our food is a key issue in preserving the life of our planet. Agriculture based on destructive chemicals must be converted to organic food production. In this context, we organised a large-scale international agro-ecology conference online and once more took action against glyphosate.

In 2021, we launched a comprehensive <u>petition</u> for the protection of Hungary's natural treasures, advocated for our big lakes and <u>opposed the government</u> <u>investment project</u> to destroy the wildlife of Lake Fertő. On the occasion of Pope Francis' visit to Hungary in the autumn, we used a hot-air balloon to <u>project the pontiff's own words</u> to protect nature, then Greenpeace activists <u>hacked a poster</u> for the Budapest World of Hunting and Nature Exhibition and, at the state-organised Sustainability Expo, our activists <u>drew attention</u> to the government's numerous nature- and climate-destroying activities. At the end of November, we claimed a victory: an absurd six-year lawsuit ended with Kishantos and Greenpeace <u>winning the case</u> at the High Court.

We launch a petition to protect the wildlife of Hungary

The <u>guidelines for the protection of nature</u> in Hungary over the next ten years will be determined by Hungary's National Biodiversity Strategy, so we considered it important that the completed document be truly ambitious. We <u>launched a comprehensive petition</u> for the protection of our natural resources, in order to ensure that Hungary's biodiversity strategy falls in line with the goals of the European Union, to ensure the protection of our forests, wetlands and pollinators in Hungary, and to support sustainable agriculture.



We continue to work to get as much local organic food as possible into canteens

In 2021, we continued to work to <u>get as much locally and organically</u> <u>produced food as possible</u> onto children's tables in communal canteens. This is key not only for health, but also for nature and climate protection, and it strengthens local communities by providing nearby farmers with a secure market and a fair income.

We consider it a great achievement that the regulations on public-catering procurement in Hungary have changed: from 1 January 2022, at least 60% of food must be gathered from domestic sources and short-supply chains, and organic farming must be involved as much as possible in the ingredients. We believe that our many years of hard work have played a role in this matter, as we have done everything we can to convince decision-makers of its importance.

In the autumn, we made a video showing an excellent example in a primary school where a complex educational programme was created behind the eating process. There are no plastic bags or packaged food in the kitchen at this school. They also use Hungarian and locally produced organic ingredients, introduce children to the healthy and environmental effects of eating, visit producers and learn how to cook in the kitchen.



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We demand the Minister of Agriculture ban carcinogenic glyphosate

Together with WWF Hungary, the Hungarian Ornithological and Nature Conservation Society (BirdLife Hungary), the National Society of Conservationists (Friends of the Earth Hungary) and other Hungarian green organisations, in accordance with the biodiversity strategy of the European Union and also taking into account the frustrating data on cancer in Hungary, we wrote an <u>open letter</u> to the Minister of Agriculture István Nagy not to support the re-authorisation of the hazardous herbicide product glyphosate in agriculture and in other sensitive uses.

The herbicide, previously classified as a carcinogen, was re-authorised in the EU in 2017 for a limited time with the support of Hungary. The future of glyphosate will be decided by the EU in 2022. Hungary, together with three other member states, has again proposed the authorisation of this chemical, which poses a risk to both our health and the environment, according to experts.

We organise an international conference on agro-ecology

Together with the Védegylet Egyesület, we <u>organised an international</u> <u>online conference</u> entitled 'New Trends at the World's Best Agrarian Universities'. At the event, speakers from the most respected foreign agricultural universities presented new directions in education and research in the field of food and agriculture. The conference participants were given answers on how to produce food for humanity while finding solutions to the worsening ecological and climate crisis and food and social problems, all of which are key challenges in training the agricultural professionals of the future.

We hope that by bringing the good practices of the best foreign agricultural universities to Hungary, we can support the government's goal of making the Hungarian University of Agricultural and Life Sciences, which was established by merging several universities, among of the best in the world in education and research in the field of ecological agriculture. This, in turn, will also give due weight to tuition and research in ecologically oriented agriculture in higher education in Hungary.

We act on several fronts to protect Lake Fertő

In April, in support of a local civil initiative to protect the area, we <u>challenged through the courts</u> the large-scale, nature-damaging investment in Lake Fertő, funded by the government. On World Biodiversity Day, <u>we stood up with civilians and well-known Hungarian</u> <u>actors</u> – Dorottya Udvaros, Eszter Földes and Anikó Für – to protect Lake Fertő and the major big lakes in Hungary, where similar public and private investments are destroying wildlife.

Already in June, <u>UNESCO urged the cessation of the large invest-</u> <u>ment in Lake Fertő</u>, and we appealed to the Hungarian National Committee of the Ramsar Convention to review its previous decision on the investment. In addition, our activists, along with actor Dorottya Udvaros, <u>took part in an initiative at the lake to protect swallows</u>: the activists removed the plastic lattices, the so-called bird-protection nets, from the stilt houses still standing on the lake, which were installed by the people from the investment company to prevent swallows nesting in buildings awaiting demolition.

Meanwhile, the international scandal has grown around the Lake Fertő luxury investment – <u>the international secretariat of the Ramsar</u> <u>Convention has asked the Hungarian commission</u> to provide them with materials and studies to assess the information upon which the Hungarian commission approved the investment.

In July, we <u>wrote an open letter</u> to Viktor Orbán asking the Hungarian Prime Minister to take action against the construction destroying nature, especially against the government's luxury investment at Lake Fertő. In the middle of August, the Minister of Agriculture István Nagy <u>responded to our letter</u>, in which he supported the mega investment in Lake Fertő.

In November, we released a new video in which comedian Gergely Litkai gives an alternative guided tour, spiced with humorous sarcastic elements, of the propaganda exhibition by the building company of the Fertő Part holiday complex in Sopron. The video generated a lot of views, reaching about 10% of Hungarian internet users.

In December, we addressed the Public Procurement Arbitration Committee and <u>challenged the public procurement for Fertő</u>, which was <u>withdrawn by the investment company</u> a few days later. However, on Christmas Eve, this <u>scandalous procurement was re-issued</u> for tender for an even larger facility than the original. We challenged this again, continuing the long-running struggle to save Lake Fertő, which we're still not giving up.

Lake Fertő is a wild romantic water world, its small canals, inner lakes and reeds home to tens of thousands of birds, and a feeding ground for hundreds of thousands of migratory birds in Europe. Because of its particular wildlife, it is under national and international protection, a national park and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Nevertheless, the Hungarian government is making the largest investment in tourism here: it is building a 100-room hotel, apartment buildings, an 880-space car park, an indoor sports complex and several other buildings across an area of 53 hectares, endangering the unique wildlife of Lake Fertő. We also launched a landing page about Lake Fertő and how the planned investment endangers the special natural values of the area.



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SUCCESS: Kishantos and Greenpeace win our case at the High Court

The lawsuit, which lasted for six years, ended with Kishantos and Greenpeace <u>winning the case at the High Court</u>. The verdict stated that Kishantos and Greenpeace were justifiably trying to prevent that the new tenants destroy the organic crops before the harvest on the Kishantos farm.

The trials of the Kishantos organic farm, the shining example of Hungarian organic farming, began in 2013, when the farm lost its land due to an illegal action. In 2014, we peacefully demonstrated against the destruction of the organic economy, for which we were sued by the state. The proceedings lasted six years, of which four were adjourned. In the lawsuit, the Hungarian state wanted our organisation and the Kishantos Rural Development Centre to pay 14 million forints, plus interest, on the basis of allegations which were untrue. We have been supporting the Kishantos fight for truth since 2013, from which we <u>created a timeline</u>.

The only question now is who will return the Kishantos land and when will the model farm finally be compensated.



The destruction of Lake Fertő, increasing emissions, climate veto and severe air pollution – Greenpeace activists used <u>a word cloud</u> <u>depicting a Pac-Man figure</u> to draw attention to the government's myriad nature- and climate-destroying activities at the entrance to the state-organised Sustainability Expo. The next day of the exhibition, the activists interrupted the presentation of Dr László Palkovics, Minister of Innovation and Technology, on the stage with <u>a banner</u> proclaiming: 'Action instead of PR stunts'.



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© Greenpeace. Edited photo. The original was taken in 2014.

We use a hot-air balloon and the words of Pope Francis to send a message to protect nature

'Take great care of Mother Earth!' – we <u>attached a quote from Pope</u> <u>Francis to a huge hot-air balloon</u> depicting the Earth, with which we greeted the Catholic pontiff on the occasion of his visit to Budapest in September. With this spectacular initiative, we drew attention to the fact that at the current, critical level of the climate and ecological crisis, a joint effort is needed, both individually and systemically, to save the Earth, its wonderful wildlife and humanity.

Greenpeace activists hack a hunting exhibition poster

At the end of September, Greenpeace activists <u>creatively hacked a</u> <u>billboard</u> of the state-funded World of Hunting and Nature Exhibition in Budapest. Climbing activists descended from the top of a building to place a banner declaring 'Hunting Exhibition: Targeting conservation!' over one of the posters for the exhibition. With this initiative, activists drew attention to the fact that while the government was advertising the exhibition as a nature conservation event, the budget for this was many times more than the state spends on real conservation in a year, such as maintaining national parks. The state spent 2.5 times more on the World of Hunting and Nature Exhibition than Hungary's ten national parks in total.



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Our campaign for climate protection

Throughout the year, we continued to work to ensure that climate protection plays a key role in Hungary, and that Hungary also takes substantial action against climate-damaging emissions. In an <u>open letter</u>, we called on the government to draw up a green action plan to restart the economy, and then we launched a campaign against the planned drilling by energy giant MOL in the Őrség National Park, as a result of which <u>MOL eventually withdrew</u> its drilling plans for the designated site.

We also launched a new petition <u>demanding a</u> <u>green strategy from the Prime Minister-candidates</u>, and in October, together with the respected magazine HVG, we organised a <u>first-ever roundtable debate</u> in Hungary involving the Prime Minister-candidates on green issues. During 2021, we also prepared a number of green recommendations and proposals for climate protection for the <u>government</u>, the <u>City of Budapest</u>, the joint oppo-<u>sition parties</u> running in the 2022 parliamentary elections, and the <u>Hungarian National Bank</u>.

Our poll shows that the Hungarian population expects a green restart from the government

At the beginning of the year, we published the <u>results of our poll</u>, which showed that the Hungarian population expects a green restart from the government as part of the reconstruction after the coronavirus epidemic. The vast majority of respondents agreed with the suggestion that the government should not provide economic rescue packages that exacerbate the climate and ecological crisis, such as support for large-scale chemical agriculture and oil companies, as well as tax breaks for airlines. We then asked the government in an <u>open letter</u> to draw up a green action plan to relaunch the economy, in line with the views of the Hungarian population.



We launch a campaign against the planned drilling in the Őrség National Park by oil giant MOL

We were outraged that <u>oil giant MOL was planning to start hydro-</u> <u>carbon exploration</u> by drilling in the Őrség National Park during the worsening climate and ecological crisis. Therefore, we registered for the permit process for the planned well to take action against the investment by the available legal means.

In April, in a joint statement with 111 NGOs, we called on MOL to abandon its planned investment and asked economic and political figures to ensure the protection of Hungary's protected areas of national importance in accordance with Constitutional Law. A week later, we presented 'Who cares about nature?' (a wordplay on MOL in Hungarian) banners at the MOL headquarters at the annual general meeting of the oil company, during which we delivered our joint statement to MOL. Our work was a success. In August, MOL withdrew its original drilling plans for the Őrség National Park.



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We address the Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority with relation to the construction licence for Paks II

The process for giving a construction licence for the Paks II nuclear plant continued into 2021. Within this context, at the online public hearing, we <u>asked the Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority</u> about the circumstances of the licensing for the planned construction of Paks II, its effects on Paks I, and the waste and security of Paks II.

We continue to stress that nuclear energy is dangerous, expensive and no solution to climate change. To recover from the climate crisis, energy systems must be switched to sustainable, clean and safe renewables as soon as possible, while exploiting the potential for energy savings and efficiency.

We demand a green agenda from candidates running in the 2022 parliamentary elections

In July, we <u>sent an open letter to the prime ministerial candidates</u> running in the parliamentary elections to make public their green agenda from 2022, and we also <u>launched a petition</u> on the subject. We then evaluated the agendas of the candidates running in the elections and <u>published the results</u>, which showed that their commitments were not enough to deal with the current level of the climate and ecological crisis, so we demanded a much more ambitious green agenda from them.

In October, we <u>experienced a historic moment</u>: for the first time in Hungary, organised by Greenpeace and respected magazine HVG, the Prime Minister-candidates sat down to discuss the most pressing environmental issues of our time. The event made it clear that political action against the climate and ecological crisis has now become inevitable, with no politician in charge in 2021 without a credible green agenda.



© István Fazekas / HVG

In November, we <u>published the results of our poll</u>, which revealed that the vast majority of Hungarian society agrees that the government in 2022 should address the climate and ecological crisis as a matter of priority, and supports the introduction of the necessary environmental measures. We drew attention to the fact that the 2022 election was a milestone in the protection of our climate security and our natural values, as we have until 2030 to take substantive action, according to the unanimous opinion of the world's scientists.



We formulate expert recommendations for a green Hungary

In 2021, we made a number of recommendations and package of proposals for a green Hungary. In February, we <u>commented on the draft Green Recommendation of the Hungarian National Bank</u> on financial institutions, and then <u>formulated expert recommendations</u> at the HNB's Green Recommendation Conference, where we drew attention to the responsibilities of the government, the HNB and the banking sector.

We also <u>submitted detailed expert opinion</u> on the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan for Budapest, emphasising that a climate-protection strategy that does not aim to achieve carbon neutrality as soon as possible is by no means acceptable today. In addition, we <u>commented on the draft Recovery and Resilience Plan</u> for Hungary, including water management, sustainable transport, green energy and the transition to a circular economy.

In May, together with a number of expert organisations, we <u>drew attention</u> to the fact that the grant of 104 billion forints from the European Union's Fair Transition Fund should not help large polluting companies, but local workers, small and medium-sized enterprises, and communities most affected by the end of coal extraction and the subsequent transition, and that the remediation of industrial sites and mines should be carried out by the polluting companies (eg the Mátra Power Plant). In the summer, we <u>commented on the</u> <u>draft programme</u> of the Joint Opposition Parties' Common Fund – we welcomed its efforts to find a solution to the global and domestic climate and ecological crisis, but we considered the material offered few concrete steps and measures that could be implemented by the future government in the next four years to guarantee the achievement of the goals.

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We campaign for the closure of the Mátra Power Plant as quickly as possible and for a fair transition

Although the government announced in February the shutdown of the Mátra Power Plant in 2025 after our campaign that lasted several years, the fate of the power plant's lignite mine in Visonta has not been clarified, and the plan to expand the mine has not been withdrawn. On Earth Day, from the mine itself, we <u>drew attention to this</u> <u>contradiction</u>, demanding an announcement that the coal mine would not be expanded and the closing of the coal-fired power plant would be replaced by renewables.

In addition, we took part in workshops organised as part of the 'LIFE-IP North-HU-Trans' project within the framework of the EU Fair Transition Fund in the governmental interest for a sustainable and fair transition of the Mátra Power Plant, and made suggestions for the future of the power plant's employees.



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Our campaign for clean air

In 2021, we continued our work for clean, healthy air. At the beginning of the year, we <u>published the</u> <u>results</u> of our latest air-pollution measurements in Budapest. In February, the European Court of Justice <u>condemned Hungary</u> for its harmful air pollution, so we addressed Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and Budapest Mayor Gergely Karácsony <u>in an open</u> <u>letter</u> to take concrete and substantive steps to clean the air.

In July, we presented our Clean Air! petition, supported by tens of thousands, to the mayor of Budapest, and a few days later we followed up with a <u>spectacular initiative</u> that decision-makers urgently need to take action against polluted air. With inverse graffiti depicting crosses on European Car Free Day in Budapest, we <u>drew attention</u> to the fact that many people die every year in Hungary due to critical air pollution.

Our measurements show that the air around hospital buildings is also polluted

We measured the levels of nitrogen-dioxide pollution during one of the peaks of the pandemic in December 2020 at ten hospitals around Budapest, where coronavirus patients were being treated, and at four busy hubs in the capital. In January, we published our results, which showed that nitrogen-dioxide pollution around health-care facilities was 33% higher than the average value recorded by measuring points in the capital. In connection with these measurements, we also presented the scientific knowledge that the coronavirus epidemic spreads faster and is much more severe in places where people live amid polluted air. Simultaneously with the presentation of these results, we demanded that the government and local authorities take urgent action to reduce traffic and restrict the use of old, polluting vehicles.



We stage spectacular initiatives to demand clean air for the Hungarian people

In the middle of summer, Greenpeace activists <u>placed a huge Clean</u> <u>Air! message</u> over the entrance to Budapest's Castle Tunnel. Tied in with this initiative, we demanded the government not delay any further the restriction of the import of worn-out cars in order to protect the health of the Hungarian population, and to allow the most polluting vehicles to be phased out of the big cities. Furthermore, we asked all parties and prime ministerial candidates running in the national elections to disclose what they would do to reduce air pollution from 2022 if they were to become part of government. As a result, during the election campaign, all prime ministerial candidates set air-pollution reduction targets in their programme.

In September, on the occasion of European Car Free Day, we <u>drew</u> <u>attention to deadly air pollution with inverse graffiti</u> depicting thousands of crosses at many busy intersections in the capital. The crosses symbolised the lives lost due to air pollution. At the same time, we emphasised that, in a recent report by the World Health Organisation (WHO), it had significantly lowered its targets for air pollutants – in cities, for example, it has reduced the annual target for nitrogen-dioxide from transport by 75%, which we have already exceeded several times in Hungary.

The health-target values for nitrogen dioxide and small particles were exceeded by those we recorded at all Hungarian measuring points.



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In an open letter, we ask the government and the City of Budapest to take action against air pollution

We called on the government and the City of Budapest to co-operate and take action in the interest of the health of Hungarians. At the end of February, we wrote <u>an open letter</u> to the Hungarian Prime Minister and the Mayor of Budapest to finally take concrete action against air pollution, which is damaging the health of millions of Hungarians. In our letter, we demanded that policymakers restrict the import of polluting cars and expel them from cities, switch to environmentally friendly transport as soon as possible, support clean heating methods and eliminate illegal waste incineration.

We deliver our petition to the Budapest City administration

In July, we <u>handed our Clean Air! petition</u> to Budapest Mayor Gergely Karácsony, in which nearly 45,000 people demanded that the City administration start a gradual ban on polluting vehicles from the capital and help the spread and development of sustainable transport. Upon receiving the petition, the mayor <u>promised to limit polluting vehicles</u>, but by the end of the year, the capital had only committed to launching a public consultation on the subject in 2022. Therefore, we continue to expect the capital leadership to publish its timetable for banning polluting vehicles as soon as possible and to outline when and which steps it intends to take to develop and spread sustainable mobility in Budapest. However, it is not enough to act at municipal level for air purity: governmental will is also needed for Hungarians to be able to breathe healthier air.

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Our campaign for a toxic-free Hungary

In 2021, we were able to record another success in our campaign for a clean, non-toxic Hungary. Together with local NGOs, we finally managed to <u>start</u> <u>the liquidation of the Kiskunhalas polluted site</u> after many years of push and pull.

In addition to following up previous domestic pollution cases, we assisted the efforts of local NGOs and the affected residents in several cases of potential pollution by industrial developments, both with expert advice and with the interpretation and evaluation of official and professional materials. We provided ongoing information to all interested parties and the press on the details of each case.



SUCCESS: The liquidation of the Kiskunhalas polluted site begins

We welcomed the fact that, after five years, the <u>removal of toxic bar-</u> rels and containers from the abandoned hazardous waste site at Kiskunhalas has finally begun. Over the years, we demonstrated the presence of toxins in the area through a number of field measurements and demanded the removal of hazardous materials. Our persistent work has borne fruit, but we emphasised that it is also important to assess the pollution caused by toxins spilled into the soil and to carry out the necessary remediation as soon as possible. In addition, the introduction of the 'polluter pays' principle should not be delayed, which would guarantee, among other things, that the costs of any similar pollution should always be borne by the polluter instead of taxpayers.

Together with local NGOs, we <u>discovered in 2016</u> that outside Kiskunhalas, 100-150 metres from residential buildings, there were hazardous wastes (paints, oils, solvents, acids, chemicals) in larger plastic containers and smaller metal barrels, in quantities exceeding 1,000 tons. Some of the barrels and containers were damaged or leaking, and our on-site measurements proved that hazardous materials had escaped.



Voluntary work and movements

Our volunteer team is an integral part of our operations, and our activities would be inconceivable without them. Their enthusiastic help, their time spent on environmental activities, their creative energy and their diverse knowledge are essential for our various events and measurements to take place. Without their participation, we would not be able to fight effectively for the protection of our climate, the purity of our air, the protection of our waters and the preservation of the natural values of Hungary.

In 2021, the coronavirus epidemic was still active in Hungary, and so we had to deal with the everyday challenges of the pandemic together. But with our dedicated team of volunteers, we successfully overcame the obstacles ahead of us and with unbroken faith, acted together against the destruction of the environment and nature in Hungary. We held a number of training sessions that helped keep our activists enthusiastic, while new applicants also joined the organisation.

Many new volunteers join us during our online information days

In 2021, we held a total of ten information sessions online, with a fair number of newcomers and others keen to join. Due to the epidemic, we held these events online – it also helped to overcome distances, so that those living further away from Budapest could easily learn about the work of Greenpeace and the opportunities offered by our activism. Our volunteer team has expanded, with 256 new members this year. With this, the number of our registered volunteers has risen to over 3,700.

Due to restrictions put in place to curb the coronavirus epidemic, our volunteers had fewer opportunities to attend face-to-face meetings than usual, yet they still attended more than 100 different events and contributed a total of about 7,200 hours, or 900 working days, to Greenpeace.

Most of our volunteer team live in Budapest, but activists still come to us from many parts of the country. Whether it's Őrség, Pécs or Kecskemét, distances are no obstacle.

Our volunteers help us with our work on the front lines

In 2021, our volunteers also helped us with our work in connection with a number of events. In February, they took part in a photo event for our clean-air campaign and then stood up against exploration wells being bored by oil giant MOL at Őrség. In the summer, they rescued swallows from the devastating luxury investment at Lake Fertő, and then hung a huge Clean Air! banner from the top of the Castle Tunnel to protest against air pollution in Budapest. In September, a large hot-air balloon was released at Budapest's City Park displaying a quote from Pope Francis concerning the protection of our Earth, with which we greeted the Catholic pontiff on the occasion of his visit to Hungary.

On the morning of a busy autumn day, Greenpeace activists <u>doc-</u> tored the advertising message on the poster of an international hunting <u>exhibition</u> in Budapest, and that afternoon, they <u>helped young</u> <u>people</u> marching in the 6th Global Climate Strike. In November, at the state-funded Sustainability Expo, activists <u>hung a giant banner</u> and pointed out the devastation of nature in Hungary, and then <u>took</u> to the stage to raise awareness of the government's greenwashing.



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In addition, our volunteer team assisted in the preparation of banners used at our events several times during the year, participated in waste-collection campaigns and clearances, and measured air pollution at several points around Budapest. Whatever the activity, the enthusiasm and perseverance of our volunteers have again been exemplary this year.

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We hold a series of online environmental lectures and training sessions

Drawing on the lessons of 2020, we continued our online series of events in 2021, during which participants were able to learn more about our campaigns. Due to the pandemic, we rescheduled our volunteer training sessions, previously required to be carried out in person, and held an all-day online training session for new entrants to showcase at a deeper level how volunteering and activism work.



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We join international Greenpeace activities

In 2021, the intensification of online activities also provided an opportunity for volunteer teams in the Central and Eastern European region to build closer ties with each other. Volunteers were able to join joint online training sessions as well as listen to lectures organised by the region. They also attended an <u>international event</u> protesting against fossil fuels to make their voices heard on climate protection.

We launch the BOLYGÓ community space

In November, communal facility <u>BOLYGÓ</u> opened in Budapest, providing a space for young people, organisations and movements with a green approach. BOLYGÓ primarily builds bridges for young people through the arts, culture and music to connect with other young people interested in environmental protection as well as climate-protection movements. BOLYGÓ was founded by Greenpeace and Swedish non-profit organisation Fryshuset as part of the international project, Planet One.

Our volunteers are also able to carry out their own activities

This year, our volunteers also spent a lot of time developing their environmental knowledge through mutual transfer of skills, so they organised countless workshops, lecture series and discussions on green topics. They also held a team-building event, during which they cycled around Lake Tisza and <u>cleared waste along the Körös rivers</u> in a canoe tour. They also joined the waste-collection campaigns launched by other organisations, such as the TeSzedd Budapest initiative, and collected waste in Kecskemét.

There was no shortage of activities and events in 2021 either, so we'll head into the next year with great enthusiasm. We are working 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 2021, we continued to provide all professional and logistical support to the youth climate-protection movement so that they could raise awareness of the climate crisis despite the pandemic. For the first time in two years, in September, <u>young people took to the streets</u> <u>in Budapest again</u> to join the global climate strike to send a message to Hungarian decision-makers: enough with your inaction! At the end of the demonstration, the young people, led by actor Dorottya Udvaros, also made a joint pledge that they would do their utmost to ensure that the candidates running in the 2022 parliamentary elections take the solution to the climate and ecological crisis seriously.



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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 187,000 private donors supporting the Greenpeace Central and Eastern European office also contribute to our operations, and Greenpeace Hungary receives their donations.

In 2021, Greenpeace Hungary received 218,922,000 forints 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 1,500-2,000 forints a month to our work. The total amount of subsidies in Hungary in 2021 was 136,876,857 forints.

Our domestic fundraising work and revenue in 2021

In 2021, our regular donors helped our environmental work with a total of 95,065,863 forints. During the year of 2021, we collected a total of 21,478,248 forints from 1% personal income tax.

In 2021, we received 3,243,156 forints of support through our fund-raising letters sent by post.

We also launched a telephone fundraising campaign in 2021. As part of this, we contacted the signatories of our environmental petitions over the phone and asked them to support our work on a monthly basis to the best of their ability. We also contacted our supporters who helped our environmental work with a one-time donation, and we also asked our inactive donors to support our work with regular donations if they had the chance. The total revenue of these telephone fundraising campaigns was 8,992,822 forints, of which the amount of regular donations we received is included in our total regular revenue.

We informed those interested in our work about our current campaigns through various channels (Facebook, Instagram, e-mail newsletters, petitions, website) and asked them to support our activities with their donations. In this way, in 2021 our organisation received a total of 13,659,090 forints in donations, as well as support through one-time bank transfers and bank-card transactions.





In 2021, we launched The Face of Nature, a new fundraising campaign to protect biodiversity. As part of this during 2021, 3,430,500 forints was received for our organisation through the website <u>https://greenpeace.hu/atermeszetarcai</u>.

At the end of 2021, we launched our online fundraising campaign, 'Pieces of Future', through which anyone on an interactive globe can select a tiny piece of the world that they can then name and adopt as they see fit. Each piece of the Earth has an informative description that shows the effects of climate change in that area. The adopter can then donate their selected piece of the Earth. The donation campaign aims to combine as many supporters as possible who want to take action against the climate and ecological crisis. The campaign was joined by 278 regular donors, whose total revenue for the year is 768,000 forints, included in our total regular revenue.

Thank you very much once more for your support!

We are an ethical fundraising organisation

The Greenpeace Hungary Association is a <u>member of a</u> <u>group of more than 20 Ethical Fundraising Organisations</u> and complies in all respects with the strict requirements of the Code of Ethics. All this guarantees that we carry out our donation-generating work in a transparent manner, exceeding the required legal framework.



The Greenpeace Hungary Association has been operating since 2002. It is a financially and politically independent, non-profit, public environmental organisation, with a base of more than 10,000 Hungarian supporters and hundreds of thousands of online followers. We work to protect our natural environment and the health of all of us to make Hungary a cleaner, more liveable country.

Currently, there are Greenpeace offices in more than 55 countries around the world. Greenpeace Hungary is one of them. 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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