



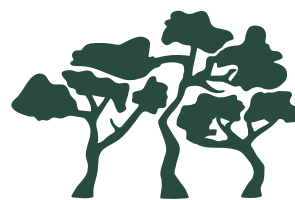
Jane Goodall Institute
Belgium



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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ABOUT



Jane Goodall Institute Belgium

The Jane Goodall Institute Belgium (JGI Be) is one of the 28 chapters of the Jane Goodall Institute across the globe, all coming together under the guidance of JGI Global (JGIG), acting as a conservation organization that advances the vision and work of founder Dr. Jane Goodall.

By protecting chimpanzees and inspiring people to conserve the natural world we share, we improve the lives of animals, people and the environment (APE).

Today, 1 million out of the 8 million species that live on earth are threatened with immediate extinction while others may disappear within decades. (UN, 2019) Every species has a role to play in their ecosystem and if we do not protect biodiversity and continue over-consuming and wasting natural resources, the ecosystems on which humans depend for their survival will gradually deteriorate irreversibly. This, of course, is what scientists have been predicting for years and what Dr Jane Goodall has been speaking about in every lecture.

“Everything is connected - everyone can make a difference.

Jane Goodall

Established in 2005, the Jane Goodall Institute Belgium has a team of three staff members and around 50 active volunteers who bring Jane's dream of living in harmony with nature, to life.

Find out more:

JGI Global: thejanegoodallinstitute.com

JGI Belgium: janegoodall.be



OUR FOCUS



The **Leaves**: Our global impact

Our impact is not just in Belgium, but we also work internationally through our projects in Africa and the connection with the global JGI network. We have a holistic approach that impacts animals, people and the environment (APE).



The **Branches**: What we do

Youth empowerment: Roots & Shoots programs

National impact: Forest in One Day

International impact: Reforestation activities in Africa, habitat and chimpanzee protection

Awareness raising: planting trees to protect habitats and the chimpanzees.



The **Trunk**: Tree Planting

Our main focus is on tree planting, creating forests through our afforestation and reforestation activities in Belgium and in Africa.



The **Roots**: Roots & Shoots / Jane's Legacy

Kids are the future and the roots of our organisation through our Roots & Shoots program.

Dr. Jane Goodall gives us inspiration and drives the core of our organisation. We want to keep highlighting this connection and grow through her work.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS



Hege
Hellstrom



Paul
Maassen

When Jane Goodall was a child, she had a favourite beech tree. She would do her homework by the tree, read books. She went to that tree when she was sad. So when she was ten, she wrote her own version of a will. It stated that her grandmother, who owned the house, would leave Jane her favourite tree. "She signed it and left me Beech", she tells in one of her many interviews.

Like Jane, we feel deeply connected to trees. So we're very pleased to report that 2023 was undoubtedly the year of the tree for us here at JGI Belgium. Our important work on reforestation was made possible through our many individual donors, our partners, the government of Flanders, QiGreen and Luminus, and done in collaboration with De Bosgroepen and Sylva Nova.

Many students around Belgium followed Jane's lead this year, as they made heroic planting efforts through our Root & Shoots activities in schools. In five different locations, children stamped around in hail, rain and sunshine to plant new life and endow the trees with their own personal messages to send them on their way to grow strong. We planted almost 18,000 trees this year, matched in Burundi by 150,000 more. In addition, we raised awareness on the importance of forests and biodiversity together with young people, public authorities and NGO alliances.

Of course we continued our many events and activities to create visibility for chimps and their conservation. We raised funds and advocated for animal welfare and against wildlife trafficking and hunting. While our fundraising for our chimp guardianship programme was somewhat limited, we are planning to increase those efforts in 2024 as we focus on chimp protection in Africa.

For an organisation dependent on donations, we are very grateful for all partners and sponsors that have put their trust in us and supported us in kind and through donations. QiGreen renewed their support and a grant we have received from the Flemish government will be used for the planting of up to 28 ha of forest in Flanders.

Our management experienced some changes. The executive director Anouska Plasmeijer left us after a good four years at the helm and we thank her for her contribution. Two board members left and were replaced by three new board members.

A final word of thanks goes to our many volunteers, including our general assembly and our fellow board members. Without their tireless volunteering, we would not have managed to achieve what we did.

It is from that position of strength that we look forward to 2024, brimming with activities and plans to deliver on our ambitious strategy.

Once again, thank you for your continued support.

MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM



Lana Bauwens
General coördinator

Céline Parrolo-Risco
Roots & Shoots coördinator

We want to start this message with a profound sense of gratitude. We thank every one of you for making this an amazing year for the Jane Goodall Institute Belgium. We've accomplished so much during this year. From tree planting activities, to new Roots & Shoots initiatives and partnerships. The impact we've had on nature and children in Belgium alone gives us plenty of energy and hope for the future.

The collaboration with the Onze Lieve Vrouw school in Sint-Genesius-Rode was one of this year's highlights. It was amazing to see 500 children plant an entire forest of almost 5.000 trees in one day. Even the youngest, five year old participants had a blast. We went home, tired and exhausted, but feeling accomplished. We saw real change through action.

This year we also faced challenges related to staff changes and finances. Nonetheless, thanks to some exceptional volunteers, we were able to carry out all the planned activities. No small feat, but we couldn't be more proud.

We laid the groundwork for many activities that allow us to have even more of an impact in 2024. We look forward to organising more Roots & Shoots workshops and activities, launching a new website, planting more trees and having great collaborations with companies, local governments and other important partners.

Jane Goodall will turn 90 in 2024 and we are ready to give her the best birthday gift: another epic year of creating a change and fighting to preserve nature and biodiversity, one action at a time.

We welcome [you to continue joining our efforts](#) and help us have an even greater impact.

Céline & Lana

1. REFORESTATION & AFFORESTATION ACTIVITIES



By planting trees we are restoring nature and biodiversity. Through planting new forests or replanting forests that have been cut or died, we are helping nature. Trees make communities greener and healthier, they are also safe havens for animals and important in fighting climate change.

Following Jane's teachings, we focus on participation and taking action. We want to show that everyone can do something positive and be part of the solution. That's why we pride ourselves in not just planting trees, but actively engaging people to join us - from local citizens to companies' employees and tree planting enthusiasts from all over Belgium.

This year we had an additional focus in our tree planting activities: youth. With our Roots & Shoots programme, we activated youngsters to come plant trees and organised workshops in schools on the importance of trees and forests.



REFORESTATION & AFFORESTATION OVERVIEW

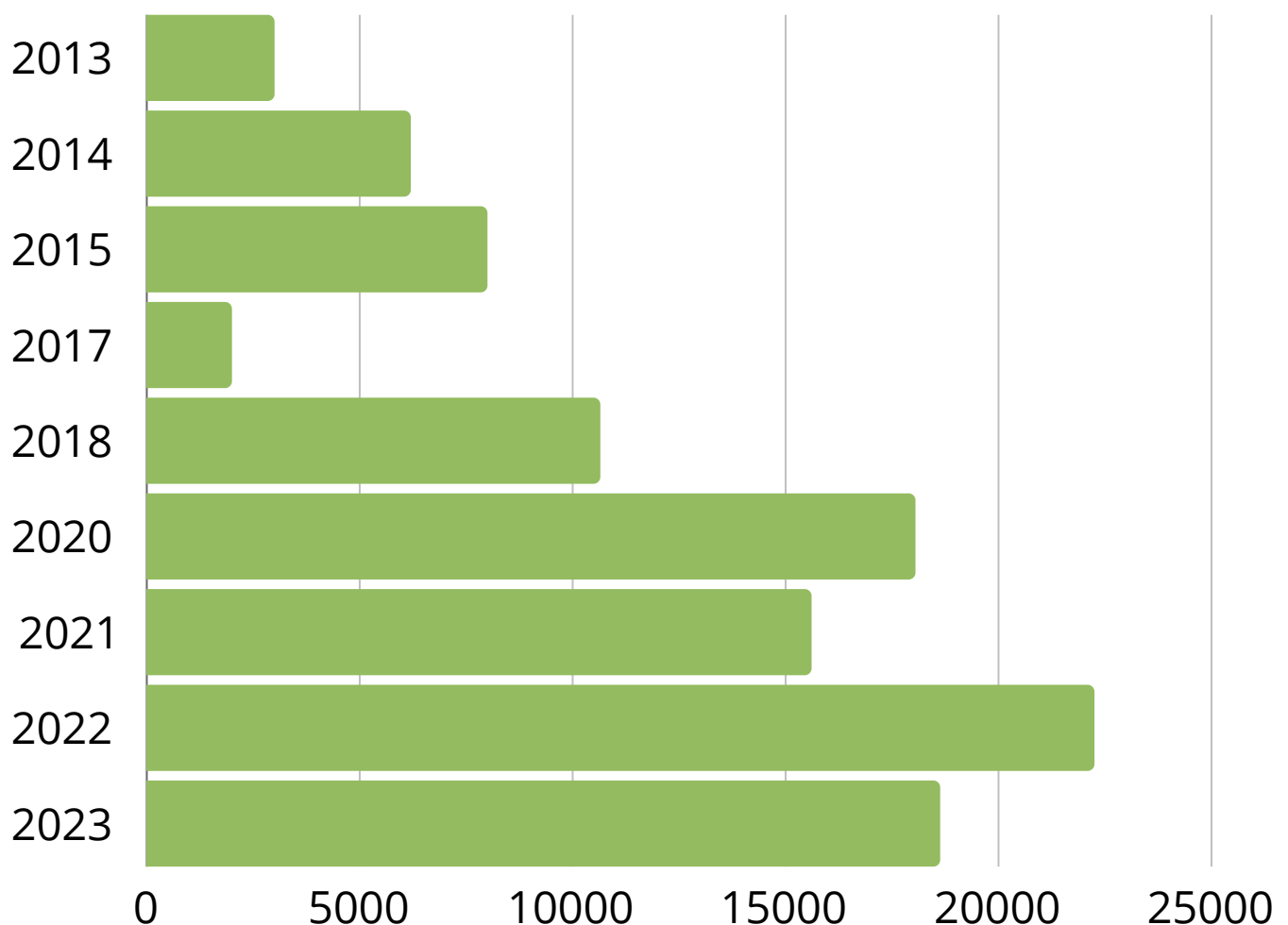


This year was exceptional. We planted 18,630 trees all over Belgium with the help from over 1,100 people, 700 of them children and youngsters.

Since 2005, we have planted more than **100,000 trees in Belgium** in 24 Forest in One Day tree planting events.

Overview last 10 years

 Trees planted in BE



We are thankful to the 92 donors who made this all possible. We raised over €6,615 from individual donors for our tree planting activities in Belgium and Burundi.

We would also like to thank our corporate partners for their invaluable support. Read more in the partners section.

FOREST IN ONE DAY

Our annual forest planting event, creating an ecosystem, attracting wildlife and bringing together the local community is the perfect example of how the Jane Goodall Belgium team of volunteers and sponsors work to bring to life Jane Goodall's dream to live in harmony with nature. It joins people of all ages and cultures to create a forest in one day.

Since starting this event in 2014, we have planted about 100.000 indigenous trees in Belgium to create forests. For every tree we plant, we plant minimum 10 trees in one of our community conservation and reforestation projects in Africa.

All our Roots & Shoots groups are invited to this event.

Schepdaal - February

In Schepdaal, Vlaams-Brabant we planted **4,600 trees** with our partner De Bosgroepen. Employees from UPS Belgium and students from the International School of Brussels came to help.



Genk - March

In Genk, we planted **3,600 trees** in cooperation with 300 volunteers and the City of Genk in the presence of the Flemish Minister for Environment Zuhair Demir and actor Hilde de Baerdemaeker. Several local youth groups came to help together with a large group of our volunteers.



FOREST IN ONE DAY

Limbourg - November

This was the 10th forest that we've planted in collaboration with our partner Luminus. A truly amazing achievement that we got to celebrate with 300 people who gathered to plant **3,800 trees** in Limbourg together with our technical partner Sylva Nova.



St-Genesius-Rode - December

Our first “kids only” tree planting took place next to Onze Lieve Vrouw school in Sint-Genesius-Rode where 500 children between the ages of 5-12 years planted **4,700 trees** guided by our volunteers, our partner Salesforce and the technical support team from De Bosgroepen.

Nijlen - December

The second “all kids” tree planting was in Nijlen where 3rd and 4th graders from Sint-Josefschool school planted **1,800 trees** with the help of our volunteers and De Bosgroepen.



How are our trees doing?

Through the help of sponsors, technical partners, volunteers, and individual donations, we were able to plant 24 forests in 20 different locations throughout Belgium by the end of 2023. Despite some challenges due to storms and other difficult weather conditions, our trees are thriving thanks to the expertise of our partners.

We experienced some loss of saplings due to drought in recent years, but our partners regularly monitor the forests and replace dead trees.



By planting trees on a large scale, we can really do something about climate change and biodiversity loss. Hopefully, in the future, this will lead to more forest expansion than net forest loss, both in Burundi and in Belgium. When Jane Goodall began her well-known research on chimpanzees, deforestation was not her primary concern. Now, 60 years later, it is central to achieving what she believes in.

Our technical partners

The preparation of the land, the planting plan, the trees and the after care are all done by our technical partners. They have the knowhow and the skills to make sure that the trees we plant grow into strong, health forests.

In 2023 we worked together with De Bosgroepen and Sylva Nova. A big thank you to both of them for the valuable collaboration.

PLANTING IN BURUNDI



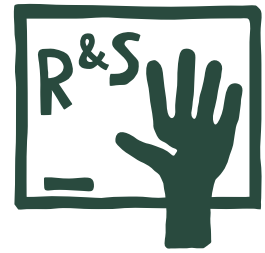
The last remaining groups of chimpanzees can be found in the mountains of the national parks of Burundi where they are threatened by human activity. To protect them, Roots & Shoots Burundi is raising awareness among young people, women and other community groups of the ecological, economic and social importance of chimpanzees and the need to preserve their habitats. Jane Goodall Belgium has supported the tree planting activities that benefit the local community, schools, and health centres since 2015.

In 2023, we supported the Roots & Shoots programme in Burundi with €17,800 to produce and plant 150,000 seedlings of indigenous and exotic species. The small trees were planted in schoolyards, along roadsides on church property, in the vicinity of state infrastructure (courts, communes zones, health centres) and in the plots of land of rural populations. Over 300 people participated in the tree planting, 200 of them children.

Unfortunately, many young trees did not survive the exceptional drought. That is why Burundi continues to need our support. The more trees we manage to grow, the better chance we have in the fight against climate change, drought and soil erosion.



2. ROOTS & SHOOTS



With the support of QiGreen and the Government of Flanders, we took significant steps in environmental education for youth through our Roots & Shoots programme. Inspired by Jane's constant belief in youth as a source of hope, we engaged children of different ages in understanding our individual responsibility towards the environment.

Specific objectives include:

- Increase awareness of- and support for the R&S program amongst Belgian youth and other stakeholders (volunteers, teachers, partners)
- Development of communication and workshop handouts and materials
- Translate and amend content from existing material from the R&S international programs into our local context
- Establish strong partnerships in Belgium to scale up the programme and impact
- In a second phase: to share with the international members of R&S our learnings and results from Belgium, creating strong links between local and global young change makers.





R&S content, workshops and activities

Our commitment to education and youth empowerment led us to conduct 26 workshops with 748 children across Belgium. These workshops covered a range of topics from animal protection and combating illegal wildlife trade to protection of forests and biodiversity with the age-appropriate material developed with other Roots & Shoots chapters. Our outreach spanning from primary to secondary school had a broad impact on youth of all ages.

Some workshop numbers

The 26 workshops were given in 12 schools.

17 workshops were given in Flanders, 8 in Brussels and 1 in Wallonia. 25 of the workshops were in primary schools and 1 was in middle school.

A number of educational events were held this year, we highlight a few here:

- With 160 youngsters from the International School Brussels, we organised a large-scale Forest Cleanup event in three locations: Osseghem Park, Josaphat Park, and Bois de la Cambre.
- A significant tree planting event involved 435 children from Onze Lieve Vrouw School in Rhodes St Genese. Their collective effort contributed to the creation of a beautiful new forest adjacent to the school domain, leaving a lasting legacy for both the school and the environment.
- Over 60 young people joined the Chimp Day at Pakawi Park where the park's warden gave them insights into the world of chimpanzees.



Content workshops

In 2023, we developed and finalised workshop materials and activities for youngsters with the following themes:

The importance of animal protection and the impact of illegal wildlife trade

Age group: 13 - 15 years

Language: Dutch

The importance of trees and forests

Age group: 5 - 12 years

Language: Dutch and French

Plastic escape game

Age group: 10 - 14 years

Language: Dutch and French

In collaboration with WWF.

Biodiversity game

Age group: 7 - 12 years

Language: French and Dutch



In collaboration with WWF, we developed a pilot of a youth focused escape game focused on plastic pollution. Given the pilot's success, we now plan to integrate it into our future programmes.

Swift game

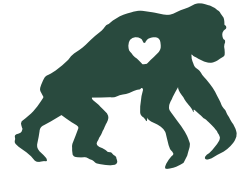
Age group: 11 - 14 years

Language: Dutch and French

Created by Martine Wauters and developed by R&S Belgium. We also collaborated with R&S France to create a complete educational package, including an informative booklet about this fantastic bird.



3. ANIMAL PROTECTION



The Jane Goodall Institute Belgium concerns itself with protecting animals in Belgium and in Africa. Our main focus is of course due to Dr. Goodall's history on preserving habitat for the chimpanzees and rescuing those who can't return to the wild. We do this through our tree planting efforts in Burundi, protection and conservation of the Dindéfelo Nature Community Reserve in Senegal and the Chimp Eden sanctuary in South-Africa.

It is estimated that by 2050 all great apes may become extinct – this would be an invaluable loss. Chimpanzees are our closest relative in the animal world, sharing 98% of our DNA. Moreover, we now know thanks to the discoveries of Dr. Jane Goodall, that chimpanzees are sentient beings with different characters and personalities.

To save and protect great apes and chimpanzees, the Jane Goodall Institute globally has a threefold approach: raising awareness, enforcing laws on trafficking and creating and supporting sanctuaries. JGI Belgium supports and organizes fundraising activities for this approach.



Chimp Eden

Situated within the beautiful 1,000 hectare Umhloti Nature Reserve, 15 kilometres outside Nelspruit, the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) South Africa Chimpanzee Sanctuary is home to 33 chimps that have been misplaced from their natural habitats in Africa.

The chimpanzees at Chimp Eden are the lucky ones, living out their lives in a risk free environment and being provided with the necessary attention to recover from the trauma they have experienced. The chimpanzees spend their days in semi-wild enclosures, and show normal social interaction and behavioural patterns as group members.

There are currently three different chimp groups and enclosures at the South African sanctuary. There are viewpoints overlooking the forest and 'foraging areas' from which visitors and volunteers can observe and study the chimpanzees.

In 2023 JGI Belgium sent €16.440 to the Chimp Eden Sanctuary.



In what terms should we think of these beings, nonhuman yet possessing so very many human-like characteristics? How should we treat them? Surely we should treat them with the same consideration and kindness as we show to other humans; and as we recognize human rights, so too should we recognize the rights of the great apes? Yes.

Jane Goodall



Dindéfelo Nature Reserve

The Jane Goodall Institute Belgium has been supporting the Dindéfelo Nature Reserve in Senegal since 2019. It's being run by the Jane Goodall Institute in Spain and we work in close collaboration with them to aid them in their conservation efforts.



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The work being carried out in the Dindéfelo Nature Reserve is vital for the survival of the chimpanzees. Of that specific species of chimpanzees, there are only 500 left. The project is largely focused on research which gives us the opportunity to better protect the chimpanzees and lobby on their behalf. In 2023 the results of the research helped stop a road being built through chimpanzee territory.

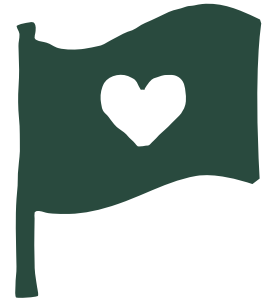
In 2023, JGI Belgium's donation of €16,440 partially financed the JGI ecological monitoring of chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) and their habitat in the Kedougou region. These funds have been allocated to partially cover salary expenses and other costs related to the research and conservation of chimpanzees in the area in 2023.

The first survey of the year was conducted during the dry season and the second one, in the rainy season. For each one of them, the total sampling effort was 67 km. A team of three well-trained JGI field assistants and a JGI research assistant recorded relevant data. In all, they walked over 320 km in hard terrain, and ate and stayed overnight in different villages.



A total of 1,099 observations were recorded, corresponding to medium and large mammals (8%), water points and trophic resources for chimpanzees (15%), and human activities (77%).

4. ADVOCACY



Our commitment to Jane Goodall's values has driven us to align with key campaigns and collaborate with like-minded organisations at the EU level.

Nature and biodiversity

To support a European Nature Restoration Law, a key law aimed at restoring ecosystems, habitats and species across the EU's land and sea areas, we took part in the joint action of over 200 European environmental NGOs led by Birdlife, WWF, EEB and ClientEarth. We helped raise public awareness and put pressure on the policymakers during the legislative process. At the end of the year, the outcome looked promising pending final approval.

Together with over 200 NGOs in Together4Forests campaign we participated in the follow up of the EU deforestation regulation signing a letter that urged the EU member states to deliver on their legal obligations and keep deforestation off the market.



JANE'S ADVOCACY AT THE BIODIVERSITY COP28

"We are seeing the consequences of the crazy idea that there can be unlimited economic development on a planet with finite natural resources and a growing population. Decisions are made for short-term gain at the expense of protecting the environment for the future."

Jane Goodall

Animal welfare

We took part in two significant events focused on farm animal welfare and agriculture, the first by Compassion in World Farming and the second by ELO and Syngenta. Jane was present in both through a video message.

As part of the Jane Goodall Institute Global effort to support the UN initiative against wildlife trafficking, we engaged the Belgian Federal Ministry for Environment to help change the international legal framework on wildlife protection and related crime, and to support the EU efforts against illegal hunting and trade of wildlife. We welcomed the Belgian government's decision to ban the import of hunting trophies in July.



These are trafficked baby chimpanzees that were confiscated in Angola in 2022. In 2023 they were transferred to our [Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Center](#) where they now live and are being cared for.

With our “Forever wild” campaign we aim to stop the trafficking of chimpanzees and raise awareness of the use of wild animals for social media.

WHY IT MATTERS

Some of the most popular chimpanzee videos and photos on social media actually represent inappropriate care and poor welfare practices.

These chimps are forced to perform, are isolated, and exploited. The content also fuels the trade in chimps as pets, which causes immense suffering.

Signs of bad content →



5. GRANTS



We received grants from the Flemish Government and QiGreen Foundation to develop the Roots & Shoots programme.

Qi Green

During the last year thematic workshops on sustainable development, forests, chimpanzees and swifts were given at 12 schools, reaching about 748 children. We've expanded our workshop materials by developing a presentation on illegal hunting and trade of wild animals, creating a game on biodiversity and ecosystem connections and created a plastic plastic escape game in partnership with WWF to fight plastic pollution.

The goal of the project is to empower youth to care for animals, people & the environment and to enable JGI Belgium to professionalise the R&S programme in Belgium with the aim to increase the scale, quality and impact of this programme. Specific objectives therefore include:

- Increase awareness of- and support for the R&S programme amongst Belgian youth and other stakeholders (volunteers, teachers, partners).
- Development of communication and workshop handouts and materials • Translate and amend content from existing material from the R&S international programmes into our local context.
- Establish strong partnerships in Belgium to scale up the programme and impact.

An extension of this project has been approved for 2 years which enables further development of the R&S program, tackling more biodiversity issues such as the impact of climate change, nature and health of animals and people, and a game on climate change. The overall aim is reaching more schools and youth organisations and to establish long term relationships with these schools.

Flanders Department of Environment

With the grant from the Flemish Government for the project 'Contributing to a healthier planet with actions for animals, people, and the environment' the Roots & Shoots program as well as our tree planting activities and our communication programme got an additional boost. Through education and awareness raising, we increased the understanding of forests and trees among a wider audience.

More specifically, the project is about the realisation and planting of 14.000–21.000 trees per year to realise roughly 28–42 ha of forest per in Flanders during this project. To realise this, we count on the active support of JGI's partners, local populations, and schoolchildren.

The 'Roots & Shoots' emphasis is on providing a large number of young people with opportunities to interact with nature, and to educate them about nature. Young people who are in need and who are underprivileged are given special consideration.

This project will end in 2024.

2023 Project grant FOD environment

At the end of 2023 we received an additional grant from the Belgian ministry of climate, the environment, sustainable development and green deal for the amount of €7.000.

With these funds we were able to organise a Roots & Shoots activity in Nijlen with the students of the 3rd and 4th grade of the Sint-Josefschool. We gave 4 workshops and planted 1.800 trees in collaboration with De Bosgroepen.

The funds also made it possible to expand our Roots & Shoots section on our new website that will be launched in Q2 of 2024. This will make it easier for children to start their own Roots & Shoots projects from home and to find relevant content for their school projects.

In total we received €133,000 in grants in 2023.

6. PARTNERS



We are very appreciative of the ongoing assistance from our long standing JGI members, our donors, as well as the corporations and organisations listed below for being our partners in action. Their donations, and their other forms of support are critical to being able to do what we do!



PARTNERS



We want to highlight some of our partnerships and how we collaborate together to create a positive impact.

Luminus

This year the Jane Goodall Institute Belgium and Luminus celebrated a special occasion: we planted our 10th forest together in Belgium. This highlights the strength of our partnership, which began in 2019.

In the past 5 years we've planted 54.255 trees in Belgium and over 4,6 million trees in Burundi.

We are proud that our partnership will continue in 2024 with even more trees added to the counter.



AtlasGo

The users of the atlasGO app and their clients have actively turning hope into action. Together they have supported the planting of over 100.000 trees in Burundi since the beginning of our partnership. This collaboration allows us to expand the chimpanzees' habitats and to take precautionary measures to avoid erosion by planting on the hilly mountains in the Southern provinces of Burundi. This year they contributed 6.000 trees in Burundi and 600 trees in Belgium.

COLLABORATIONS



WWF Belgium

WWF Belgium Education: the world renowned conservation organisation's education team collaborated with R&S in the development of a 'plastic escape game' for schools to enhance knowledge of youth on threats and impacts of plastics on nature and stimulate actions against use and waste of plastics.

ToekomstATELIERdelAvenir

TADA (ToekomstATELIERdelAvenir) is a Brussels based organisation offering a weekend programme to vulnerable teenagers in socially deprived neighborhoods, to widen their perspectives on career and life. We collaborated on biodiversity related topics and joined out-door activities for their youth groups to convey the importance of nature to us all.

Biodiversa+

In 2023, JGI Belgium joined the Belgian Biodiversity Alliance, a platform to enhance voluntary actions for biodiversity conservation; Biodiversa+ Stakeholders Board, a European Biodiversity Partnership supporting research and citizen science on biodiversity issues.

Sonian Forest Foundation

Sonian Forest Foundation facilitates interregional cooperation to preserve the Sonian forest and its biodiversity and promotes its sustainable use and educational value.

7. EVENTS



During the year, Jane's message and our work was featured in several events:

- Youth Film Premières i.o. Willow
- Humanistisch Verbond Mechelen
- 75th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights with the première of Jane's movie Reasons for Hope
- Forum for the Future of Agriculture
- EU event on farm animal health
- World Youth Days 2023 (Lisbon).



8. FINANCIAL RESULTS



Income	2023	2022
Donations (private)	11.432,03	30.224,34
Donations (corporate)	53.269,97	50.464,30
Forest in One Day event	24.393,93	18.000,00
Subsidies	87.000,00	16.917,00
Grants	57.500,00	40.729,00
Merchandising	1.442,00	4.458,00
Lectures	5.000,00	5.000,00
Lecture and Gala	(475,00)	99.769,00
Total Income	239.562,93	265.561,64

Expenses	2023	2022
Staff related costs	129.691,82	66.487,46
Lecture and Gala	-	59.198,10
Roots and Shoots	56.350,90	47.367,47
Event costs	(131,61)	4.214,89
Animal welfare programs in Africa	2.361,00	38.772,50
Tree planting in African programs	25.000,00	32.500,00
Tree planting in Belgium	31.216,46	16.517,84
Cost of materials	1.661,43	6.022,96
JGI Global contribution	1.759,11	2.492,79
Communication, website, other	8.280,60	-
Telecom, internet, banking costs and audit fee	5.994,42	4.754,09
Total Expenses	262.184,12	278.328,09

	2023	2022
Net Result	(22.621,19)	(12.766,45)

Net assets	2023	2022
Cash and cash equivalents	219.492,57	319.805,46
Stock	1.854,98	1.854,98
Receivables	42.000,00	27.990,92
Payables	(162.730,64)	(226.413,27)
Net assets	100.616,91	123.238,10

FINANCIAL STATEMENT



At JGI, accountability and transparency are crucial. Through our annual reports and financial statements, we have the chance to share highlights from our programmes, the impact they are having, and how we use the funding from our donors to make this work possible.

To make sure that as much money as possible supports our programs, we keep an eye on every expenditure. We aim to provide genuine, transformative results while maximizing the impact of our donors' contribution because we cherish their trust and dedication.

The current financial year has been somewhat modest from an income perspective, especially the individual donations came in lower than originally expected partially due to the challenges with our previous financial service provider and partially due to the new website project finished in 2024. The grants and subsidies received increased compared to last year, however it was negated by the fact that there was no gala or lecture held in 2023.

On the expense side we were able to increase the expenses spent on Roots and Shoots projects by 19% and the overall expenses spent on tree planting in Belgium and Africa by 15%. We have also ensured that the increasing staff related payroll costs are under control and we expect a decrease of such expenses in the following year.

We ended the financial year 2023 with a net result of EUR -22.621 which has decreased our net assets to EUR 100.617. We maintain a comfortable reserve for the next financial year and for future funding initiatives.