

Financial Report

2024



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## Comment

# On the Financial Report 2024

During the 2024 financial year, significant resources were allocated to the continued growth of the Regional Stewardship Hubs and the expansion of their ongoing activities and partnerships. Simultaneously, interdisciplinary collaboration across research and innovation teams was reinforced, and several initiatives were launched to promote the alignment of science and policy. In its fifth year, the Wyss Academy reached its targeted size, expanding its workforce from 90 to 102 employees, and underwent an in-depth evaluation at all institutional levels.

The high ambitions for the implementation of projects expressed in the 2024 budget were met accordingly, with an implementation rate just above 100% (compared to about 80% in 2023), which corresponds to an increase in expenses of 35% year-on-year. However, project expenditures at Hub Bern were below projections, leading to a lower overall income than expected, reaching only 80% of the planned amount.

The Wyss Academy reported an ordinary result of CHF -4.74 million for the 2024 financial year. This result is driven by total operating income of CHF 20.38 million, financial income of CHF 0.16 million and operating expenses of CHF 25.28 million. Personnel expenses, amounting to CHF 12.29 million, represented the largest share of costs, followed by project expenses at CHF 11.18 million. Other operating expenses totaled CHF 1.46 million, while depreciation and amortization amounted to CHF 0.35 million.

As a result, the balance sheet decreased by CHF 5.37 million to CHF 37.02 million by year-end. On the assets side, 97.4% is attributed to current assets, including CHF 22.53 million in cash and cash equivalents, CHF 13.14 million in receivables, and CHF 0.38 million in advance payments to Hubs and prepayment for services. The non-current assets amounted to CHF 0.97 million, consisting of operating investments after depreciation and amortization.

On the liabilities side, payables for goods and services amounted to CHF 2.54 million, accruals and deferrals reached CHF 2.22 million and together with short term provisions of CHF 1.49 million, they constituted the current liabilities.

At the end of 2024, the Wyss Academy for Nature held a total of CHF 30.77 million foundation capital while the negative result of CHF 4.74 million reduced the carried forward balance to CHF 20.77 million.

Earlier in the year, the Board approved a one-year no-cost extension of the Wyss Academy's funding period, extending it from 2029 to 2030 and increasing the total duration to 11 years. This extension supports the gradual use of accumulated equity from the start-up years in line with the Wyss Academy's long-term strategy.



**Matthias Schmid-Huberty,**  
Chief Operations Officer



**Olatz Artola,**  
Finance & Controlling Lead

Matthias Schmid-Huberty,  
Chief Operations Officer

Olatz Artola,  
Finance & Controlling Lead



# Balance sheet

		31.12.2024	31.12.2023
<b>Assets</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>CHF</b>
Cash and cash equivalents		17,526,017	10,852,905
Current financial assets	4.1	5,006,934	14,900,140
Receivables from services	4.2	2,938,305	3,237,329
Other short-term receivables	4.3	10,203,835	11,846,674
Advance payments Regional Hubs	4.4	319,932	443,468
Prepayments and accrued income		62,241	137,056
<b>Current assets</b>		<b>36,057,264</b>	<b>41,417,572</b>
Tangible fixed assets	4.5	847,542	746,539
Intangible assets	4.6	119,215	231,119
<b>Non-current assets</b>		<b>966,757</b>	<b>977,658</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>37,024,021</b>	<b>42,395,230</b>
<b>Liabilities and foundation capital</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>CHF</b>
Payables from goods and services	4.7	2,543,988	4,385,924
Accrued liabilities and deferred income	4.8	2,218,398	1,524,444
Short-term provisions		1,492,968	974,673
<b>Current liabilities</b>		<b>6,255,354</b>	<b>6,885,040</b>
Foundation capital		10,000,000	10,000,000
Result carried forward		25,510,189	22,987,340
Result of the year		-4,741,522	2,522,849
<b>Total foundation capital</b>		<b>30,768,668</b>	<b>35,510,189</b>
<b>Total liabilities and foundation capital</b>		<b>37,024,021</b>	<b>42,395,230</b>

# Income statement

01.01.–31.12.2024 01.01.–31.12.2023

	Notes	CHF	CHF
Donor contributions	4.9	17,000,000	17,000,000
Income for implementation program Hub Bern	4.10	2,613,011	3,525,964
Other third-party funding by Canton of Bern		581,974	462,705
Other third-party funding for projects, research and services		172,131	150,077
Other operating income		10,177	14,865
<b>Total operating income</b>		<b>20,377,293</b>	<b>21,153,611</b>
Project expenses	4.11	-11,180,275	-8,018,842
Personnel expenses	4.12	-12,285,694	-9,198,130
Other operating expenses	4.13	-1,461,828	-1,208,878
Depreciation of tangible assets		-236,505	-210,163
Amortisation on intangible assets		-111,904	-109,906
<b>Total operating expenses</b>		<b>-25,276,205</b>	<b>-18,745,918</b>
<b>Operating result</b>		<b>-4,898,912</b>	<b>2,407,693</b>
Financial result	4.14	157,228	115,156
<b>Ordinary result</b>		<b>-4,741,685</b>	<b>2,522,849</b>
Extraordinary result	4.15	163	0
<b>Result of the year</b>		<b>-4,741,522</b>	<b>2,522,849</b>

# Statement of changes in foundation capital

	2024	2023
	CHF	CHF
Foundation capital	10,000,000	10,000,000
Result carried forward	25,510,189	22,987,340
Result of the year	-4,741,522	2,522,849
<b>Foundation capital as of 31 December</b>	<b>30,768,668</b>	<b>35,510,189</b>

The foundation capital was paid in 2020 by the three founders The Wyss Foundation (CHF 6,000,000), the University of Bern (CHF 2,300,000) and the Canton of Bern (CHF 1,700,000).

# Cash flow statement

		2024	2023
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>	Notes	CHF	CHF
<b>Result of the year</b>		<b>-4,741,522</b>	<b>2,522,849</b>
Depreciation of tangible assets		236,505	210,163
Amortization of intangible assets		111,904	109,906
Increase (–) / decrease (+) in receivables	4.2 / 4.3	1,941,863	-11,117,853
Increase (–) / decrease (+) in advance payments South Hubs	4.4	123,536	-366,832
Increase (–) / decrease (+) in prepayments and accrued income		74,816	338,440
Decrease (–) / increase (+) in payables	4.7	-1,841,936	1,624,615
Decrease (–) / increase (+) in accrued liabilities and deferred income	4.8	693,954	-374,409
Decrease (–) / increase (+) in short-term provisions		518,295	417,698
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		<b>-2,882,586</b>	<b>-6,635,422</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		CHF	CHF
Outflows for purchase of short-term deposits		-999,900	-14,900,140
Outflows for purchase of tangible assets		-337,508	-233,230
Outflows for purchase of intangible assets		0	-35,928
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		<b>-1,337,408</b>	<b>-15,169,298</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>	Notes	CHF	CHF
Payment of foundation capital		0	0
Increase (–) / decrease (+) in current financial assets	4.1	10,893,106	10,036,533
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		<b>10,893,106</b>	<b>10,036,533</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>6,673,112</b>	<b>-11,768,187</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1/1		10,852,905	22,621,092
Cash and cash equivalents at 12/31		17,526,017	10,852,905

# Notes on the financial statements

## 1 General information

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The Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern is a private organization based in Bern (Switzerland) and was established in 2020 as an independent foundation.

Rapid biodiversity losses, accelerated climate change and a growing demand for land resources – these developments and their consequences are closely inter-related. This is the area in which the Wyss Academy for Nature is working; teams of scientists join forces with experts and representatives from the fields of

policy, business and civil society on four continents to develop innovations aimed at protecting nature and ensuring that it is used sustainably.

The aims of the Wyss Academy for Nature are addressed by four operational units and the synergies between them: regional hubs – in South America, East Africa, Southeast Asia and Switzerland (Canton of Bern) – constitute the cornerstones for developing, testing and applying innovations for the protection of nature and its sustainable use.

## 2 Organization and governance

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### The Board

The Foundation Board is called the “Board”.  
The current members of the board are:

- Prof. Dr. Christian Leumann (President)
- André Nietlisbach (Vice-President)
- Dr. h.c. Hansjörg Wyss
- Prof. Dr. Peter Messerli
- Dr. Molly McUsic
- Johann Schneider-Ammann

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is represented on the Board by one person as an observer.

### Director and Deputy-Director

- Prof. Dr. Peter Messerli, Director
- Matthias Schmid-Huberty, COO and Deputy-Director

### Auditor

- KPMG AG, Badenerstrasse 172, 8036 Zurich

## 3 Basis of preparation and accounting policies

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### Accounting standard

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Swiss GAAP FER as issued by the Swiss Foundation for Accounting and Reporting Recommendations and the Swiss Code of Obligations. These financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position, the cash flows and the operational results.

### Currency and foreign currency transactions

The presentation currency is CHF (Swiss francs). Assets and liabilities in foreign currency are valued at the closing rate at the balance sheet date. Foreign currency transactions are recorded on initial recog-

nition in the functional currency at the transaction rate. Exchange rate differences are recognized in the income statement.

### Revenue recognition

Core funding from founding organizations is recognized in the period when the funding was provided as stipulated in the contract. Operating income from project and research contributions is recognized in the period when the services were provided.

### Cash and cash equivalents

This item includes cash balance, post and bank deposits as well as time deposits and fiduciary depos-



its with a maturity of at most 90 days. These are presented as nominal values. Transactions in foreign currencies have been converted according to the daily exchange rates during the business year.

#### **Receivables from services, other short-term receivables and financial assets**

These are valued at their nominal value less impairment, if any. Significant receivables are to be valued individually and will be impaired if necessary.

#### **Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets items are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of assets less their residual values over their estimated lifetime, using the straight-line method. The following annual rates are used for depreciation of tangible fixed assets:

- Furnishings: 8 years
- IT hardware/office machines: 5 years
- Investments in rented offices: 5 years
- Vehicles: 5 years

Fixed assets at costs less than CHF 1,000 are not capitalized. The capitalization of maintenance costs depends on whether they are value-preserving or value-adding respectively extending the useful life of the fixed asset.

If there is an indication that there has been a significant change in the depreciation rate, useful life or residual value of an asset, the depreciation of that asset is revised prospectively to reflect the new expectations.

#### **Intangible assets**

Intangible assets are purchased computer software that is measured at cost less accumulated amortization and any accumulated impairment losses. The software is amortized over its estimated useful lifetime of five years using the straight-line method.

#### **Payables from goods and services and other short-term liabilities**

Payables are recorded at their fair value, represented by the amount to pay.

#### **Accrued liabilities and deferred income**

This item includes the liabilities that result from the accrual accounting. These accrued liabilities are principally project payments for project activities that have not yet been carried out.

#### **Short-term provisions**

Provisions are determined based on impartial and economically reasonable principles. Risks are taken into account adequately.

#### **Cash flow statement**

The cash flow statement shows the changes in the cash and cash equivalents fund, divided into operating, investment and financing activities. It is presented according to the indirect method.

#### **Associated organizations, individuals and institutions**

The following organizations and individuals are regarded as associates:

- The Wyss Foundation, Washington
- University of Bern
- Canton of Bern
- Board and Management of The Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern

## 4 Details on the balance sheet and income statement

<b>4.1 Current financial assets</b>	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
	CHF	CHF
Short-term deposits	5,006,934	14,900,140
<b>Total current financial assets</b>	<b>5,006,934</b>	<b>14,900,140</b>

CHF 999,900 assets are currently held in short-term bonds and CHF 4,007,034 in short term money market.

<b>4.2 Receivables from services</b>	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
	CHF	CHF
Receivables Canton of Bern	2,931,561	2,642,542
Receivables third-party	6,744	594,787
<b>Total receivables from services</b>	<b>2,938,305</b>	<b>3,237,329</b>

<b>4.3 Other short-term receivables</b>	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
	CHF	CHF
University of Bern	59,079	0
Canton of Bern	33,681	1,756,872
Wyss Foundation	10,000,000	10,000,000
Other short-term receivables third parties	111,076	89,802
<b>Total other short-term receivables</b>	<b>10,203,835</b>	<b>11,846,674</b>

<b>4.4 Advance payments South Hub</b>	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
	CHF	CHF
Advance payments Hub Laos	-6,690	105,018
Advance payments Hub Kenya	168	102,606
Advance payments Hub Peru	326,454	235,844
<b>Total advance payments South Hub</b>	<b>319,932</b>	<b>443,468</b>

<b>4.5 Tangible fixed assets</b>	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	CHF	CHF
Furnishings	269,741	310,053
IT hardware / office machines	237,559	165,102
Investments in rented offices	130,870	196,062
Car	56,092	75,321
Field Offices	59,514	0
Construction in progress	93,767	0
<b>Total tangible fixed assets</b>	<b>847,542</b>	<b>746,539</b>

<b>4.6 Intangible assets</b>	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	CHF	CHF
Software	119,215	210,338
Right of use of hardware (server)	0	20,781
<b>Total intangible assets</b>	<b>119,215</b>	<b>231,119</b>

<b>4.7 Payables from goods and services</b>	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
	CHF	CHF
Payables third-party	1,628,861	1,493,115
Payables University of Bern	915,127	2,621,272
Payables Canton of Bern	0	271,537
<b>Total payables from goods and services</b>	<b>2,543,988</b>	<b>4,385,924</b>

<b>4.8 Accrued liabilities and deferred income</b>	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
	CHF	CHF
Accrued liabilities third-party	614,821	578,746
Wyss Academy Innovation Fund	1,000,000	500,000
Deferred income Canton of Bern	0	20,000
Accrued liabilities University of Bern	603,576	425,698
<b>Total accrued liabilities and deferred income</b>	<b>2,218,398</b>	<b>1,524,444</b>

<b>4.9 Donor contributions</b>	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
<b>By donor</b>	CHF	CHF
The Wyss Foundation	10,000,000	10,000,000
University of Bern	3,000,000	3,000,000
University of Bern (tied funds)	2,000,000	825,000
Swiss Development Cooperation (University of Bern – tied funds)	0	1,175,000
Canton of Bern	1,700,000	1,700,000
Canton of Bern (in kind contribution for office)	300,000	300,000
<b>Total donor contributions</b>	<b>17,000,000</b>	<b>17,000,000</b>

The Canton of Bern contributes CHF 300,000 to finance the rent and the costs for the offices.

<b>4.10 Income for implementation program Hub Bern</b>	<b>31.12.2024</b>	<b>31.12.2023</b>
	<b>CHF</b>	<b>CHF</b>
Canton of Bern	2,613,011	3,525,964
<b>Total income for implementation program Hub Bern</b>	<b>2,613,011</b>	<b>3,525,964</b>

The Canton funds the implementation program for the Hub Bern to the value of CHF 30 million over ten years in accordance with the Cantonal Parliament resolution. If the total for the project amounts settled does not reach the average yearly tranches of CHF 3 million, the remaining funds will be released from the Cantonal Government within the framework of the approved global credit facility for subsequent years as part of the annual approval and financial planning process. In 2024, the Canton validated the decision for a no-cost extension of the funding period by one year, resulting in 11 years total (until 2030).

<b>4.11 Project expenses</b>	<b>31.12.2024</b>	<b>31.12.2023</b>
<b>As per nature</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>CHF</b>
Project expenses Regional Stewardship Hubs	-4,442,320	-1,823,629
Project expenses Hub Bern	-3,073,652	-4,067,271
Project expenses Research and Innovation Teams	-1,674,236	-220,736
Project expenses Global Policy Outreach & Synthesis Center	-1,135,781	-1,054,734
Project expenses Management Center	-854,286	-852,472
<b>Total project expenses</b>	<b>-11,180,275</b>	<b>-8,018,842</b>

<b>4.12 Personnel expenses</b>	<b>31.12.2024</b>	<b>31.12.2023</b>
<b>As per nature</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>CHF</b>
Personnel expenses Wyss Academy	-4,858,584	-3,977,315
Personnel expenses Regional Stewardship Hubs	-400,525	-650,664
Personnel expenses Partners	-639,061	0
Personnel expenses University of Bern (seconded)	-3,398,025	-2,308,467
Other personnel expenses	-2,104,886	-1,547,732
Social insurance expenses	-884,613	-713,952
<b>Total personnel expenses</b>	<b>-12,285,694</b>	<b>-9,198,130</b>

The Wyss Academy averagely employed 85.2 full time equivalents (FTE) in 2024 (vs. 64.7 in 2023) and employed 92.6 FTE as of 31 December 2024 (vs. 76.6 as of 31 December 2023), representing a workforce of 102 persons (vs. 90 in 2023), including received secondments.

<b>4.13 Other operating expenses</b>	<b>31.12.2024</b>	<b>31.12.2023</b>
<b>As per nature</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>CHF</b>
Maintenance and rent	-418,056	-438,445
Informatic costs	-383,531	-373,892
Marketing and public relations	-19,158	-22,239
Other	-641,084	-374,302
<b>Total other operating expenses</b>	<b>-1,461,828</b>	<b>-1,208,878</b>

<b>4.14 Financial result</b>	<b>31.12.2024</b>	<b>31.12.2023</b>
<b>As per nature</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>CHF</b>
Financial income	273,788	168,492
Financial expense	-116,560	-53,336
<b>Total financial result</b>	<b>157,228</b>	<b>115,156</b>

<b>4.15 Extraordinary result</b>	<b>31.12.2024</b>	<b>31.12.2023</b>
<b>As per nature</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>CHF</b>
Extraordinary income	163	0
<b>Total extraordinary result</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>0</b>



## 5 Expenses by business units

	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
<b>Hub Southeast Asia</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>CHF</b>
Personnel expenses Wyss Academy	-217,968	-156,838
Personnel expenses Partners	-188,231	0
Project expenses	-865,212	-645,471
Other operating expenses	-52,122	-14,475
Financial expenses and income	-3,199	0
<b>Total expenses Hub Southeast Asia</b>	<b>-1,326,732</b>	<b>-816,784</b>
<b>Hub East Africa</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>CHF</b>
Personnel expenses Wyss Academy	-17,055	-457,734
Personnel expenses Regional Stewardship Hubs	-584,287	0
Project expenses	-1,463,947	-503,695
Other operating expenses	-90,220	-121,238
Depreciation of tangible and intangible assets	-28,422	0
Financial expenses and income	1,354	0
<b>Total expenses Hub East Africa</b>	<b>-2,182,578</b>	<b>-1,082,667</b>
<b>Hub South America</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>CHF</b>
Personnel expenses Wyss Academy	-67,577	-634,987
Personnel expenses Partners	-712,258	0
Project expenses	-1,275,081	-523,761
Other operating expenses	-298,492	-95,765
Depreciation of tangible and intangible assets	-9,186	0
Financial expenses and income	-10,585	0
<b>Total expenses Hub South America</b>	<b>-2,373,179</b>	<b>-1,254,513</b>
<b>Regional Stewardship Hubs Coordination</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>CHF</b>
Personnel expenses Wyss Academy	-699,982	-504,892
Personnel expenses University of Bern (seconded)	0	-21,389
Project expenses	-838,079	-150,702
Other operating expenses	-22,758	-8,678
Depreciation of tangible and intangible assets	-767	0
Financial expenses and income	-1,018	0
<b>Total expenses Regional Stewardship Hubs Coordination</b>	<b>-1,562,603</b>	<b>-685,661</b>

	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
<b>Hub Bern</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>CHF</b>
Personnel expenses Wyss Academy	-651,575	-634,212
Project expenses	-3,073,652	-4,067,271
Other operating expenses	0	-15,795
<b>Total expenses Hub Bern</b>	<b>-3,725,227</b>	<b>-4,717,278</b>
<b>Global Policy Outreach &amp; Synthesis Center</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>CHF</b>
Personnel expenses Wyss Academy	-901,621	-689,922
Project expenses	-1,135,781	-1,054,734
Other operating expenses	-14,484	-9,251
Financial expenses and income	-1,269	0
<b>Total expenses Global Policy Outreach &amp; Synthesis Center</b>	<b>-2,053,155</b>	<b>-1,753,907</b>
<b>Research and Innovation Teams</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>CHF</b>
Personnel expenses Wyss Academy	-1,868,301	-1,500,341
Personnel expenses University of Bern (seconded)	-3,033,838	-1,976,607
Project expenses	-1,674,236	-220,736
Other operating expenses	-23,681	-57,032
Depreciation of tangible and intangible assets	-21,276	0
Financial expenses and income	-7,350	0
<b>Total expenses Research and Innovation Teams</b>	<b>-6,628,682</b>	<b>-3,754,715</b>
<b>Management Center</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>CHF</b>
Personnel expenses Wyss Academy	-2,978,813	-2,310,737
Personnel expenses University of Bern (seconded)	-364,188	-310,472
Project expenses	-854,286	-852,472
Other operating expenses	-960,071	-824,334
Depreciation of tangible and intangible assets	-288,757	-267,222
Financial expenses and income	179,458	0
<b>Total expenses Management Center</b>	<b>-5,266,658</b>	<b>-4,565,237</b>
<b>Grand total expenses all business units</b>	<b>-25,118,815</b>	<b>-18,630,762</b>

Looking at the Wyss Academy's spending from a business unit perspective, total expenditure in the Regional Stewardship Hubs nearly doubled to CHF 7.44 million (CHF 3.84 million) and in the Hub Bern reduced to CHF 3.72 million (CHF 4.72 million). Activities in the Global Policy Outreach & Synthesis Center reached CHF 2.05 million (CHF 1.75 million) and costs in the Research and Innovation teams increased to CHF 6.63 million (CHF 3.75 million). The Management Centre, including Communication, Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation and Operations implemented the institutional set-up with an expenditure of CHF 5.27 million (CHF 4.57 million).

## 6 Approval financial statements

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The financial statements were approved for publication by the Board 6th May 2025.

## 7 Subsequent events

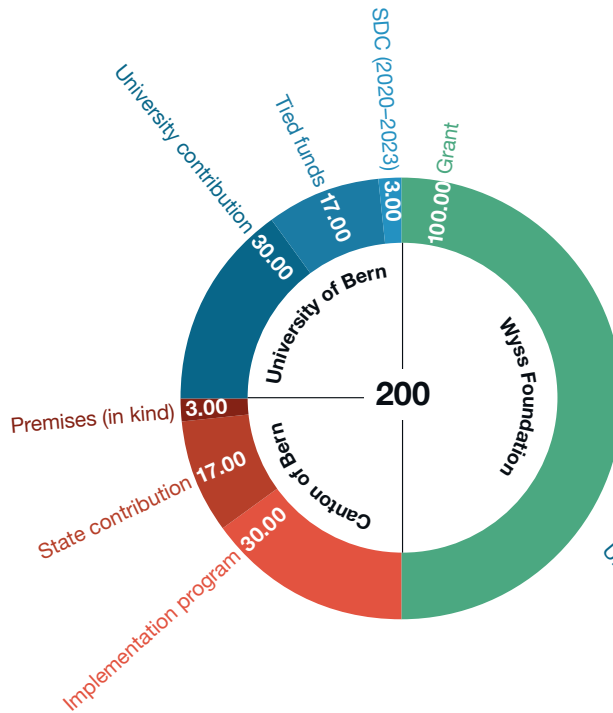
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There were no events after the balance sheet date that would have resulted in an adjustment of the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities to the annual financial statement.

# Funding

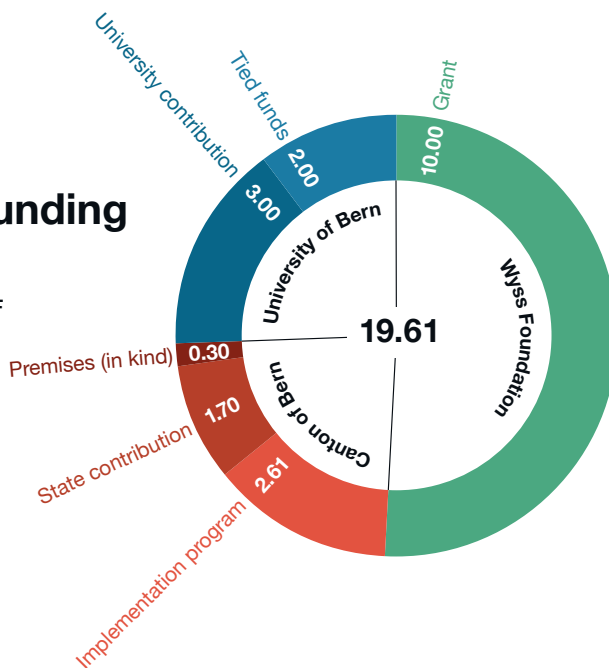
## Committed funding 2020–2030\*

in million CHF



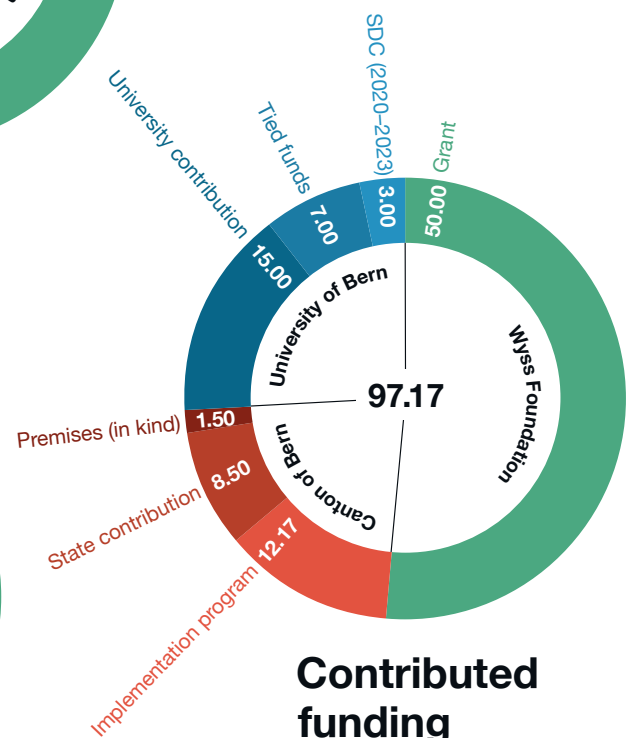
## Core funding 2024

in million CHF



## Contributed funding 2020–2024

in million CHF



		in million CHF				
Donor	Purpose	Committed funding 2020–2030*	Average per year	Core funding (Income) 2024	Contributed funding 2020–2024	Remaining commitment 2025–2030
Wyss Foundation	Grant	100.00	10.00	10.00	50.00	50.00
Canton of Bern	Implementation program	30.00	3.00	2.61	12.17	17.83
	State contribution	17.00	1.70	1.70	8.50	8.50
	Premises (in kind)	3.00	0.30	0.30	1.50	1.50
University of Bern	University contribution	30.00	3.00	3.00	15.00	15.00
	Tied funds	17.00	1.70	2.00	7.00	10.00
SDC	SDC (2020–2023)	3.00	0.30	–	3.00	–
<b>Total</b>		<b>200.00</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>19.61</b>	<b>97.17</b>	<b>102.83</b>

\*including one year of no-cost extension

# Auditor's report

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## Report of the Statutory Auditor to the Board of Trustees of Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern, Bern

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern (the Foundation), which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2024, and the income statement, the statement of changes in foundation capital for the year then ended, the cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Foundation as at 31 December 2024, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER and comply with Swiss law and the Foundation's charter.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Swiss law and Swiss Standards on Auditing (SA-CH). Our responsibilities under those provisions and standards are further described in the "Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements" section of our report. We are independent of the Foundation in accordance with the provisions of Swiss law, together with the requirements of the Swiss audit profession, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Other Information

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.





**Wyss Academy for Nature at the  
University of Bern, Bern**  
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to the Board of Trustees on the  
Financial Statements

#### **Board of Trustees' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements**

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER, the requirements of Swiss law and the foundation charter, and for such internal control as the Board of Trustees determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board of Trustees is responsible for assessing the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern, and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board of Trustees either intends to liquidate the Foundation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Swiss law and SA-CH will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Swiss law and SA-CH, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Foundation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board of Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Foundation to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with the Board of Trustees regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



**Wyss Academy for Nature at the  
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### Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with Art. 728a para. 1 item 3 CO and PS-CH 890, we confirm that an internal control system exists, which has been designed for the preparation of financial statements according to the instructions of the Board of Trustees.

We recommend that the financial statements submitted to you be approved.

KPMG AG

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Kaufmann'.

Reto Kaufmann  
Licensed Audit Expert  
Auditor in Charge

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Stettler'.

Lea Stettler  
Licensed Audit Expert

Zurich, 6 May 2025

Enclosure:

- Financial statements (balance sheet, income statement, statement of changes in foundation capital, cash flow statement and notes)

## Acknowledgements

### Financial Report 2024

#### Publisher

Wyss Academy for Nature

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Daniel Rhis and Natalia Peralta (page 3)

Together, we create  
a new relationship  
with nature

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