

DEEPL TRANSLATION of Press release from the PanEco Foundation

Berg am Irchel, 31.03.2025

Change in management at the PanEco Foundation

On April 1, Loredana Sorg and Martin Schmid will take over the management of the PanEco Foundation, based in Berg am Irchel and active in nature and species conservation. They succeed the long-standing management duo Irena Wettstein and Marcel Etterlin.

With Loredana Sorg and Martin Schmid, two personalities experienced in international cooperation in nature conservation are taking over the management in Berg am Irchel. "Thanks to their wealth of professional experience, the new co-managers will tackle the goals set out in the development strategy together with the team. We are very happy to be able to hand over the fate of the foundation into competent hands," Irena Wettstein and Marcel Etterlin are convinced. The timing for the change was well chosen, as the foundation is optimally positioned and financially stable.



Careful handover: from left to right: Marcel Etterlin, Irena Wettstein and the designated co-managers Martin Schmid and Loredana Sorg.

The new co-management

Loredana Sorg studied agricultural sciences at ETH Zurich and worked in agricultural economic consulting and regional development in Switzerland. International activities have taken the 38-year-old to Rome to the FAO (UN Food and Agriculture Organization) and to Ukraine and Georgia for several short-term assignments with FiBL (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture) and with national research institutions. She is also a member of the BioSuisse International Brand Commission. Over the past ten years, she has

been involved with the non-profit organization Biovision, first as a programme manager and most recently as a member of the Executive Board together with Martin Schmid as Co-Head of International Partnerships.

Martin Schmid also has many years of diverse experience in environmental issues and international cooperation. After studying environmental sciences at ETH Zurich, the 46-year-old worked as an environmental consultant in Switzerland and in Burkina Faso in the field of natural resource management. Martin Schmid supported a large number of projects in African and Eastern European partner countries as a long-standing advisor for rural development at the Swiss aid organization HEKS. For the last four years he has been a member of the Biovision Executive Board and, together with Loredana Sorg, Co-Head of International Partnerships.

Thanks to Irena Wettstein and Marcel Etterlin

Marcel Etterlin, responsible for the Foundation's finances and fundraising, and Irena Wettstein, responsible for communication and the PanEco programmes, have professionalized the Foundation with great personal commitment and sound expertise, first as Head of Finance and Communication respectively from 2014 and then as Co-Managing Directors from 2019. With great skill and expertise, Irena Wettstein and Marcel Etterlin built up sustainable structures that they were able to consolidate over the course of their eleven years of work. Last year, in a participatory process together with the Foundation Board, the Advisory Board, the team and the most important partner organizations, they drew up a development plan for the foundation that will set the direction for the coming years.

The Board of Trustees would like to thank Irena Wettstein and Marcel Etterlin for their successful work and great personal commitment over the past eleven years and wishes them all the best for the future. After taking time out with their families, both will be taking on new professional challenges.

"With Loredana Sorg and Martin Schmid, new forces and skills will further develop the PanEco Foundation. It will certainly be exciting, and we are looking forward to shaping the future with the new co-management."

Regina Frei, President of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is convinced that Loredana Sorg and Martin Schmid will successfully guide the fortunes of the thematically diverse PanEco Foundation, and the team is also looking forward to the forthcoming collaboration.

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The PanEco Foundation

Founded in 1996 and based in Berg am Irchel, the Zewo-certified PanEco Foundation is committed to the protection and conservation of endangered habitats and animals both nationally and internationally. The foundation runs the Thuraue Nature Center in Flaach, the Berg am Irchel Bird of Prey Station, the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Program and other rainforest conservation projects in Indonesia.

With three strategic areas of work, we help to strengthen nature in its diversity and promote responsible interaction between people and with natural resources:

- Rehabilitation and release of endangered wild animals
- "Landscape Conservation": protection, revitalization and networking of natural ecosystems
- Environmental education at all levels as an important pillar of nature conservation work