



NEWSLETTER 1 | 2026

A warm welcome to our Summer Newsletter 2026!

While the environmental challenges facing our planet continue to grow, so too does our motivation and willingness to make a positive difference.

The world's oceans have never been warmer than they are today, according to two independent studies. The loss of biodiversity is reaching dramatic proportions, while global CO₂ emissions continue to rise.

We firmly believe that lasting change begins with curiosity, education, and individual commitment. Together, step by step, we can help build a healthier future—for people and for nature alike.

Summer in Marburg



**"Knowledge inspires understanding. Understanding inspires empathy. Empathy inspires action.
Altogether this creates hope."**

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1. Foreword

As another eventful year unfolds, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who supports our work with openness and enthusiasm —our members, partners, volunteers, and all those who share our vision. We would like to give a warm Thank You to our donors.

Every tree planted, every coral reef kept alive, every peatland restored, every booklet distributed, every conversation started, and every donation made contributes to something much larger: protecting the natural world while fostering knowledge, understanding, empathy and hope.

Your donations are tax-deductible. For cash donations and bank transfers of €300 or more, we are happy to issue donation receipts.

A Brief Overview (for readers short on time)

- Since January 2026, our association has continued to grow. We are pleased to welcome two **new members** who bring valuable expertise and new opportunities.
- Once again, we supported **Reading Mentoring Marburg** e.V. as well as our partner NGO in the **Peruvian rainforest**.
- We published a new **PocketKnowledge booklet** on the highly important topic of **peatlands** and had another children's booklet professionally translated into English. As of today, in 2026 more than 300 environmental and health education booklets have already been distributed worldwide, including 90 English-language children's books donated to a school in Uganda.
- Our "**Little Tree-Diverse Forest**" (also known as the "Little Climate Forest") continues to flourish.
- Additional financial support in 2026 will be dedicated to **marine conservation** and the promotion of **traditional orchard meadows**.
- We continue expanding our network and will organize **further fundraising events** featuring book and **photography exhibitions** as well as **public lectures**.

Anyone interested in our association is warmly welcome. If you would like to become a member, we would be delighted to provide further information at info@imun-ev.de. After initial contact by email, we are also happy to arrange a phone conversation.



2. Donations and Projects

Easter Fundraising Campaign 2026

Once again, our Easter fundraising campaign, hosted by the medical practice of **Dr. Thomas Heintze**, was a success. During major holiday periods, we traditionally collect donations to support children who have limited access to nutritious food, educational opportunities, and cultural activities. This year, we were once again pleased to donate **€400** to **Reading Mentoring Marburg e.V.**, helping to promote literacy and educational opportunities for children in our region.

Project: Protecting Biodiversity in the Peruvian Amazon Rainforest

We once again supported our long-standing partner NGO dedicated to rainforest conservation with a donation of €800. This amount covers the essential operating costs of the station for approximately one month. The initiative grew out of many years of collaboration between Birgit Ziegenhagen and Professor Dr. Eckhard W. Heymann of the German Primate Center (DPZ), Göttingen. We are especially pleased that our children's educational booklet "Monita, Superheroine of the Jungle" which was originally published in German and translated into Spanish last year, has now also been professionally translated into English. Our sincere thanks go to Anna Roos for making this possible.

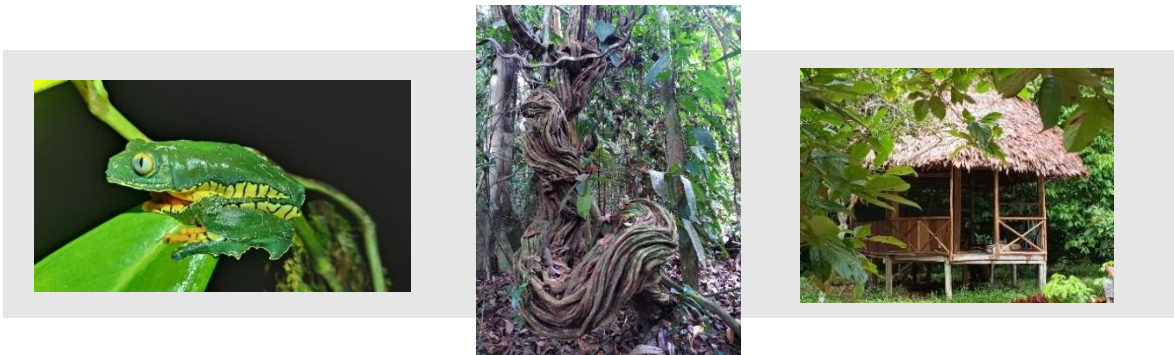


Photo Captions: Fringed Tree Frog (*Cruziohyla craspedopus*), photographed in the lowland rainforest of the Peruvian Amazon. These remarkable frogs spend most of their lives high in the forest canopy. (Photo: Eckhard Heymann). A magnificent rainforest liana growing near the field station. (Photo: Eckhard Heymann). The rainforest field station's guesthouse. The station is managed by a local non-governmental organisation in close cooperation with regional experts and local communities. Besides supporting scientific research and rainforest conservation, it also promotes sustainable ecotourism. (Photo: Camilo Flores Amasifué)

Project: Regional Forest Conservation: "Little Tree-Diverse Forest" ("Little Climate Forest")



Photo Captions: The protective fence remains intact, effectively preventing browsing damage by wild animals, while the Wild Service Tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) has shown particularly encouraging growth. (Photos: Birgit Ziegenhagen)



The little woodland consists of native deciduous tree species together with wild fruit trees selected for their resilience and ecological value. Many of the trees planted in 2023 are known to be tolerant to increasingly dry conditions. Several of the species are insect-pollinated and provide valuable food resources for native pollinators, thereby strengthening the entire local food web and contributing to greater biodiversity. During a recent visit to the Burgwald-Forest, Birgit Ziegenhagen and Thomas Heintze found the plantation in excellent condition.

Our local district forester, Jörg Reinl, has kindly invited members of the association to take part in a guided tour of the site later this year. We sincerely appreciate this opportunity and look forward to reporting on the visit—and introducing the individual tree species—in our next newsletter.

Projects with the German Oceanographic Museum and its Friends Association, both Stralsund

This year we will once again support important conservation initiatives carried out by the German Oceanographic Museum (Deutsches Meeresmuseum) and its Friends Association in Stralsund.

Our contributions will help fund projects dedicated to the protection of seagrass meadows, coral reefs, and other fragile marine ecosystems, while also providing educational books for museum outreach activities.

Healthy oceans are indispensable for climate regulation, biodiversity, and ultimately for human well-being. The negative consequences of their degradation are expected to become tremendous, making every contribution—large or small—a meaningful investment in our shared future.

Educational Project in Uganda

One of our newest members, Frank Klein from Biedenkopf, founded a school in Uganda fourteen years ago. We are delighted to support this remarkable commitment through an educational initiative.

At the end of June, Frank travelled to Uganda carrying three of our English-language children's booklets. Thirty copies of each title were enthusiastically received by the pupils and teachers.

These books serve not only as educational material but also communicate authentic environmental knowledge based on our own scientific work and original photography. Topics include: protecting our oceans from plastic pollution, rainforest restoration, and how wildlife responds to increasingly frequent heat extremes.

We are proud that these publications are now helping to inspire environmental awareness far beyond Germany. Further information about the association founded by Frank Klein can be found on its website: <https://kampala-view.de/unser-verein>. (Photos: Frank Klein)



Photo Captions: Kids were happy to receive the booklets for training reading and at the same time for learning about globally relevant environmental threats. And more to learn about their own capacity to create a better world and positive changes. (Photos: Frank Klein)



Sharing Knowledge with the Community

As part of our mission to promote environmental awareness, health education, and the joy of learning, we have continued donating our booklets to retirement homes, kindergartens, and a local community café.

Our next goal is to make our environmental education series available to primary schools for project weeks and similar educational programs.

Every donation that helps finance the printing of our publications enables our association to dedicate even more resources directly to practical nature conservation projects.

3. Media Library

Sharing knowledge has always been at the heart of our association's work.

Our pocket-sized booklets remain our most important educational medium, making scientific and environmental knowledge accessible in a concise, engaging, and easy-to-read format. An up-to-date catalogue is constantly available on our regularly updated website.

Our educational outreach, however, extends well beyond our publications. Lectures, book displays—our analogue "media library"—and photographic exhibitions all contribute to our mission of making environmental and health education accessible to a broad audience.

We are delighted that our series of educational booklets continues to expand.

Following last year's publications (so far in German language, just the titles have been translated!)

- *How to improve brain function and to keep it healthy,*
- *Traditional Orchard Meadows – Following the Story of the Apple,* and
- the children's double edition *Luna Searches for the Cave*, together with the interactive escape adventure *The Bats and the Seven Gates*,

we have now published another substantial volume in our **PocketKnowledge** series:



We hope to soon provide an English version of the booklet, and likewise of the others.

The English title may read "Best of Peatlands".

The booklet touches a high-priority issue, **peatlands!** The publication aims to raise public awareness of one of the world's most fascinating—and most endangered—ecosystems.

This new booklet was written by the association members and biologists Professor Gerhard Kost and Professor Birgit Ziegenhagen, together with Eberhard Leicht, former Director of the Burgwald Forest District and a recognized expert on the region's protected peatlands.



Editorial supervision was provided by **Jürgen Sachs**, also a member of our association and dramaturge at the Hessian State Theatre in Marburg.

Peatlands are among the planet's most effective long-term carbon stores. At the same time, they provide unique habitats for highly specialized plants and animals while playing a crucial role in water regulation and climate resilience.

Protecting and restoring peatlands—combined with sustainable land use outside protected areas—would represent an important contribution to climate action, biodiversity conservation, and the preservation of invaluable natural heritage.

Book Exhibitions and Local Partnerships

For us, book displays are much more than exhibitions—they create spaces for dialogue, encourage curiosity, and bring people together around a shared commitment to nature, science, and health. Recently, our association presented its current collection of publications at the **Village Archive in Marburg-Bauerbach**, where our association is based.

We are grateful to everyone who supports these initiatives and helps us spread knowledge far beyond the pages of our books.



Photo captions: Poster and book display in the historic building of the Village archive in Marburg-Bauerbach (Photo: Birgit Ziegenhagen).

4. Looking Ahead – Our Plans for 2026

We warmly invite you to visit our regularly updated website, where you will find detailed information about upcoming events, projects, publications, and activities throughout the year.

Conservation Projects

In the coming months, we will launch a new cooperative project supporting traditional orchard meadows in our region, particularly in Marburg-Bauerbach.

These unique cultural landscapes provide valuable habitats for countless animal and plant species while preserving an important part of our natural heritage. We look forward to reporting on this project in our next newsletter.



Media Library

New Publications

Our publishing program continues to grow.

Later this year, we hope to present a new pocket-sized gallery edition featuring one of the ocean's most fascinating inhabitants. We are excited to share another journey into the wonders of nature with our readers.

Book Displays

Further book displays are planned both in Germany and abroad, allowing us to introduce our publications and educational work to an even wider audience.

Each event offers an opportunity to meet people who share our passion for nature conservation, environmental education, and scientific knowledge and last not least fundraising.

Photography Exhibition

This autumn, we will open a **photographic art exhibition** at the medical practice of Dr. Thomas Heintze. Initially, the exhibition will be accessible to a smaller audience and by appointment. We hope it will later become part of a travelling exhibition, reaching visitors in additional locations and inspiring a broader public.

Lectures

Dr. med. Thomas Heintze will present a lecture at **Kellerwald-Edersee National Park** (Beech Forest) exploring the holistic medical benefits of nature or natural healing, and particularly of forests while looking at chronic pain and stress. Drawing on both scientific knowledge and practical experience, the lecture will illustrate how the natural world contributes not only to biodiversity and ecosystem health, but also to human physical and mental well-being.

Thank You

Thank you for accompanying us on our journey.

We wish you a wonderful summer (respectively a good time in the Southern Hemisphere) and look forward to sharing more news with you in our next newsletter.

Marburg, July 2026

Transferred from German into English Language with the help of ChatGPT (Online AI, 21 July 2026)