

## Press Information

The Naturstiftung David was founded in 1998 by the BUND Thuringia to promote the protection of nature and the environment in eastern Germany. The proceeds from the 3.65 Million Euro foundation capital are used to finance projects dealing with nature conservation and climate protection. The foundation promotes environmental initiatives in Germany's new federal states and implements its own projects in the state of Thuringia and nationwide.

The Naturstiftung David offers annual grants between 500 and 15,000 EUR, totaling some 60,000 EUR. The funding sponsors projects with practical implementations and initiatives which deal with the destruction of nature.

The projects carried out by the foundation itself focus on the fields of nature conservation and climate protection:

The foundation provided important basic data and coordinated the political activities of environmental NGOs to successfully secure areas of the **National Natural Heritage**. Currently, the foundation is engaged in activities focusing on networking, information transfer, training of site owners and cross-organisation monitoring.

Since 2009, the foundation has been the lead partner in the major conservation project "**Hohe Schrecke – An Ancient Forest with a Future**". The project's goal is the long-term protection of the 8,000-hectare forest and the development of a species-rich refuge through a combination of near-natural forestry and process protection.

Furthermore, the foundation carries out projects to **protect the fire salamander and its habitat** in the Thuringian Forest. Not only the fire salamander benefits from the protection and near-natural development of the forest's running waters, but the entire ecosystem of a forest stream. One of the projects is funded by the Federal Biological Diversity Programme and focuses on the river catchment "Gera".

In the future, the foundation will expand its commitment in the cross-cutting issue "nature conservation and renewable energies". One ongoing example is the **project "Energy Concepts,"** which is working towards the exemplary development of local and regional energy concepts that integrate aspects of nature conservation and landscape preservation. The foundation is taking part in this joint project with the model region "Hohe Schrecke".