

# Natuurpunt & Corporates

Life B4B

10.23 Filip Meyermans

### My personal story



- +25 years several management roles within key garden care supplier
- 2nd year of account manager @Natuurpunt
  - including webshop management (turnover = 1,1 mio €)
- Fundraising corporates = approx. 3 mio €
- Passion for nature since childhood (career within JNM)
- Aware of biodiversity 'issues' and willing to turn back the tide
  - Insect decline keeps me busy ...
- Manager of the nature reserve Dassenaarde nearby Diest (volunteer)

### Natuurpunt?



- Civil society organisation for the protection of biodiversity and nature in Flanders
- Birdlife Belgium with Natagora
- Very visible in the field as well as in socio-cultural life
- Management of 29.500 ha nature reserve in Flanders
- 500 nature reserves -> in each municipality 1 to 2 areas
- Nature conservation, study, education, advocacy
- 85 mio € turnover/year
- 580 professionals, of which 250 workers
- 130.000 members (= families)
- 45.000 volunteers

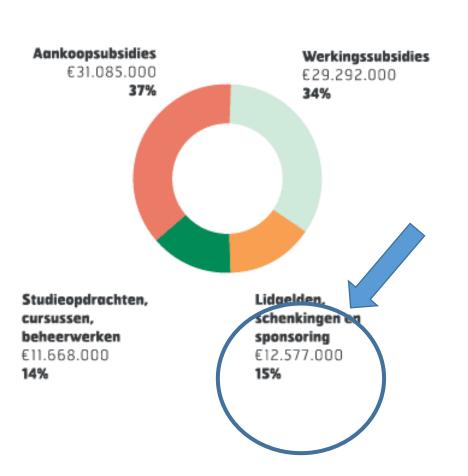


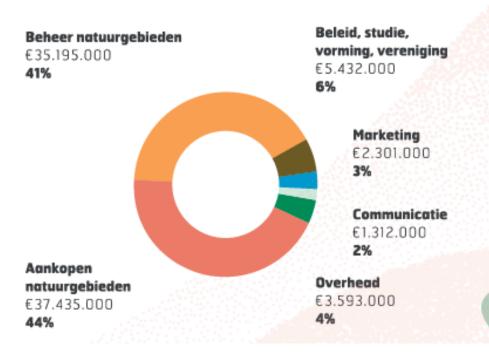
### **Finance Natuurpunt**



RESULTAAT 2022 INKOMSTEN: €84.622.000

RESULTAAT 2022 **UITGAVEN:** €85.268.000





### **Fundraising**



- Important to finance projects for 100%
- Complementary to subsidies
- Several approaches via Marketing team:
  - Legacies
  - Donations
    - Donors (15 k donors/yr)
    - Majors donors (foundations ...)
  - Gifts of properties (land, sometimes even houses)
  - Membership
  - Webshop
  - Corporates
- 20 years long experience with commercial partnerships



### Why corporates?



- Important actors in society with a big impact on nature and biodiversity
- Create awareness via employees and customers
- Important financial potential
- Increasing motivation and responsability
- Nature inclusive business model



### **Organisation**



- 5 account managers, important for follow-up
  - 2 specifically on forestation projects
- 140 national partners (different sectors)
- 20% partners = 80% income
- Most important sectors:
  - Energy
  - Food&beverages
  - Retail
- Official agreement with each partner
  - Short term ending is embedded in contract



### **Our priorities**



### Priorities @ Natuurpunt:

- Co-financing nature restoration projects
- Co-financing land purchases
- Forestation program
- Public campaigns

Water and carbon compensation are key drivers



### **Motivation company?**



- Sustainability is part of the strategy (CSR program)
- Good neighbourship
- Management in favor of nature
- HR approach: teambuilding, volunteering





### **Keys to success**



- First listen to the potential partner and look for a common ground
- Select our of the large portfolio of possibilities:
  - Water (replenishment, rewetting peatlands ...)
  - Carbon compensation
  - Biodiversity
  - Infrastructure
  - Public campaigns
  - Commercial offer
  - Teambuilding



### **Success factors**



- Define clear projects / combination with European projects
- Combination with governmental subsidies (multiplicator)
- Dedicated account management
- Awareness and collaboration of the project managers (nature reserve management)
- Counterparts by Natuurpunt (marketing)
- Detailed reporting on targets



### Contraints/challenges



- Ethical guideline
- Availability of ambitious projects
- Patience
- Possibilities in returns are not endless
- Internal cooperation
- Internal knowledge on CSR strategies
- Carbon certificates?
- Reporting





### **Examples of partnerships**



- Water replenishment
  - Coca-Cola: cooperation related to water replenishment
  - AB InBev: water
- Carbon compensation
  - Orange: domestic offset forest offer -> forestation
- Biodiversity: Delhaize & suppliers
- Recreation: A.S. Adventure walks
- Public campaigns: Tom&Co (wildlife)
- Commercial actions
  - Green energy offer to Natuurpunt members





## AB InBev, de Vrienden van Heverleebos en Meerdaalwoud en Natuurpunt verbeteren grondwaterniveau met samenwerking in natuurreservaat Doode Bemde

Weergeven Bewerken Revisies



#### KRIJG DE NATUUR IN JE MAILBOX

Natuurberichten, heet van de naald. 3x per week

Schrijf je in op de nieuwsbrief





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#### Coca-Cola Foundation zorgt voor herstel van verdwenen vennen



19 JUNI 2020

### Coca-Cola Foundation financiert herstel van historische vennen in Turnhout.

Na drie opeenvolgende kurkdroge jaren is het meer dan duidelijk dat droogte een enorme impact heeft op onze samenleving. Niet alleen de natuur gaat pijlsnel achteruit, ook de landbouw komt danig in de knel, continue watervoorziening voor alle Vlamingen wordt onzekerder en door de daling van de waterstand warmt het dichtbevolkte Vlaanderen steeds sneller op.

Coca-Cola is zich bewust van deze grote uitdagingen op vlak van water. In de productievestigingen in België levert het bedrijf al jaren grote inspanningen om duurzaam met water om te springen. Dankzij technologische

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#### Natuurpunt en Ethias werken aan robuuste natuur in Vallei van de Zwarte beek

21 FEBRUARI 2023

#### Natuurpunt en Ethias werken aan robuuste natuur in Vallei van de Zwarte beek

In de Vallei van de Zwarte Beek in Lummen bezegelden Natuurpunt en verzekeraar Ethias hun samenwerking. Zo maken we het natuurgebied robuuster en werken we verder aan de droom van een aaneengesloten oppervlakte van 350 hectare. De Vallei van de Zwarte Beek is één van de laatst overgebleven veengebieden in Vlaanderen en Natuurpunt wil hier de komende jaren sterk inzetten op vernatting. Dat is belangrijk voor het klimaat, de biodiversiteit en onze gezondheid.



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### What do we offer?



- 130.000 members + magazine + popular website + online media communication (Facebook, LinkedIn ...)
- Strong brand and image
- Link partners with:
  - Nature & biodiversity, climate action, SDG's
  - Media campaigns
  - Social dimension
  - Volunteer work for co-workers
  - Trendsetter
- Potential turnover via Natuurpunt network (members = consumers)



### **Challenges**



- Is your organisation ready to work with larger companies?
- Do you have a dedicated team or is it on top for the existing staff?
- Think in long term. Be patient; sometimes coming to an agreement takes a lot of time.
- Be flexible on subjects
- Speed of decision in your organisation with support of your management
- Not only financial support
- Returns, close follow-up & reporting are crucial

### Recommandations



- Corporates can be important partners
- Combine climate change and biodiversity ambitions
- Install a dedicated person/team
- Think big. Show ambition. Be ambitious.
- Climate change is priority for corporates
- Biodiversity is getting more and more on the agenda





### Thank you for your attention.

### **Natuurpunt**

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# Q&A