

Datum: 10 Dezember 2025, 19:00

Ort: Online

Minutes of the ordinary general meeting of the association "Friends of Global Change Ecology e.V."

On December 10th at 7:00 p.m., 10 members of the association Friends of Global Change Ecology e.V came together online for the annual general meeting.

FroG Board: Zachary Zeller, Flemming Ostermann, Elizaveta Shcherbinina, Puja Bhat
FroG Members: Sylvia Sprödhuber, Stephania Thomas, Miriam Thiemann, Moritz Stehmann, Thomas Schmitt, Hanchun, Justus Janoschka
Non-Members: Tatiana Kravchuk

Agenda

1. Welcome

Flemming Ostermann opens the meeting and welcomes the members. After a short introduction round, he explains that votes can be taken by simple majority and suggest that votes can be don with using the virtual hands to signal approval or disapproval. 10 participants from the association are present, as well as 1 observer.

2. Opening of the assembly and designation of the note taker

Puja Bhat is proposed by the meeting chair as note taker and is unanimously accepted.

3. Assessment of orderly invitations

The meeting management stated that the meeting was convened in accordance with the statutes. The invitation was sent by email on November 10th in accordance with the statutes..

4. Assessment of presence of the quorum

The chair of the meeting determined that the meeting had a quorum.

5. Approval of the agenda and the protocol of last years' assembly

The items on the agenda were unanimously approved by a show of hands. Additional items could be submitted by requesting to speak, but the members declined to do so. Last year's protocol was approved.

6. Annual report of the board members

7. Financial report of the treasurer

8. Report of the cash auditors

9. Agenda-setting for the association in the upcoming year 2026

Justus suggested that FroG should invite alumni that speak about their career path and mentioned that every

Miriam liked the fireside chats and that we should invite Alumni to chat about their careers. Furthermore she suggested that a “political education” event could happen more regularly with invitation of local politicians. She suggests more emails with payment reminders as well as a nice looking

Tatiana suggests that we explore ways that FroG could add benefit to Alumni to drive up donation participation for FroG

Flemming asks whether a list of companies and institutions where GCE work could be made public on the FroG website.

Sylvia replies that we have a linkedin account where people can already connect and it should not be a problem to publish a list of companies with GCE

Thomas has the idea of a GCE conference for the summer fete next year or some bigger networking event at the summer fete.

Moritz mentions the difficulty of finding internships in Germany and suggests an event where especially non-german speakers can learn about how to draft CVs, cover letters and such. Networking can also be done within the ENB.

Tatiana mentions her unity where people can receive feedback and help on documents for applications.

Miriam says how it is important to just write to places you want to work for and not wait for openings

Sylvia mentions the benefit of networking as well as the career service of the university which helps with CV. Dare to network. There is an ENB pinboard with lots of connecting opportunity to professionals in the field: ENB → Network → Professions

Tatiana mentions that people have knowledge that should be spread. E.g. how to use some programs. This could be in a mentorship form.

Justus suggests a connection between environmental job market and international policies and politics that could be looked upon in an event

Zachary asks how potential funding should be distributed

Justus says it's unfair if GCEs fund GCEs, we should look for corporate donors. However if GCEs want to fund scholarships etc. themselves, it is also fine

Tatiana asks how scholarships etc. work and explains that there are many organisation and

foundations with similar values of GCE that we can approach. It is important to check applicants' economic ability before offering them any funding and give people the voluntary options to "opt-out" of a funding to support other students who need it more.

Miriam suggests that people from some worldregions could/should be funded more heavily than others, however she recognizes how difficult it is to determine the amount of funding a person is eligible for.

Fundraising idea: sell something small, e.g. order from large companies for a fundraiser and then sell it to GCE.

Justus highlights the importance of not financing climate destructive activities (COPS, summer schools) with flights and that we should discuss it internally. Funding should be according to climate friendlier options.

Moritz: we should finance according to ECTS earned by the experience that is funded by a scholarship by FroG.

Tatiana says how science schools are very expensive for international students and that price of summer schools, especially availability of cheap summer schools are discipline dependent.

Sylvia mentions the option to do a Dauerauftrag for funding. Stephanie mentions that the yearly GCE budget is around 40-50k/year. The ENB funding will run out, because we have been funded for so long and that now the University of Bayreuth is funding us instead of the ENB until 2028. The University will probably cut some funding, but main GCE things will probably continue to work. One role of FroG could be to find out what to do when the funding runs out, what suggestions do alumni have to reformulate the study plan.

Tatiana mentions fundraising-mentors who can help with communication, funds and messaging towards potential donors.

The meeting was closed at 20:25 p.m. by the chairperson.

Secretary []

Chairperson []

Dear FroGs, Dear GCEs

This is an overview about our alumni organization Friends of Global Change Ecology e.V. activities during the year 2025.

Activities:

- Election Event (19.02) 🗳️ :

We invited politicians from Bayreuth to speak with us about the German political system and political parties, unfortunately both guests cancelled shortly before. We improvised an introduction to the German party system and had a really nice discussion about German politics.

- Birdwatching in Wilhelminenaue (10.05) 🐦 :

We organized a morning walk with a focus on birds, with the highlight being two little ringed plovers right at the Main.

- Summer Fete (12.07) 🎉 :

We played a game of speed dating at the summer fete. As always, FroG supported the Summer Fete with a donation.

- Fireside Chat (05.08) 🌲 :

In September we met online with GCE Alumni Sam Halter from the Network of Swiss Nature Parks and Jana Koegst from the Swabian Alp Biosphere Reserve to discuss the values and behind-the-scenes of nature & culture protection schemes.

- COP Reorganization 🌍 :

To make the selection process for COP attendance more fair, we debuted a model where GCE-Alumni from FroG evaluate applications.

- Greetings of new GCEs (13.10) 🙌 :

To greet our 32 new arrivals in the 2025-cohort we played a get-to-know-each-other game which sparked many good conversations and a friendly welcome to our newest students.

- IPCC Special Report on Cities (ongoing) 📄 :

We have attended several webinars on how the review of the new IPCC report works and are offering guidance for interested GCE students.

Outlook:

- Next year marks the **20th anniversary of the GCE study programme!** That is a great chance to tell fellow students from your respective years to finally “we should meet more

often". The summer fete is likely being held beginning of July, we will keep you posted with details!

- *As the ENB Funding is coming to an end, we would like to step into the role of helping to finance summer school and conferences visits for students. For this we need your help with ideas, recommendations of GCE to your networks and companies - please connect with us to see how we can enable future GCEs the possibilities we had!*

If you are not a member yet, consider joining FroG as a member to stay in touch with GCE after your studies and support future GCEs, as well as having great networking opportunities!

*Friends of GCE Board
Zach, Elizaveta, Flemming and Puja*