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## MANAGEMENT OF THE GABV SECRETARIAT'S GHG EMISSIONS IN 2023

### GHG emissions estimation and management

In 2023, the GABV Secretariat conducted its first Greenhouse Gas (GHG) screening; the objective was to better understand the secretariat's footprint, disclose it transparently for stakeholders and use this information as a basis to manage its footprint proactively in the future. This estimate is based on annual GHG emissions related to the main sources of emissions<sup>i</sup>.

The GABV Secretariat's GHG emissions for relevant categories<sup>ii</sup> have been estimated at 172 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq. over the course of 2023, divided in the following scopes:

#### **Scope 2** *Indirect emissions from purchased or acquired electricity, steam, heat and cooling*<sup>iii</sup>

The GABV Secretariat rents a 26,83 m<sup>2</sup> office at the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in Amsterdam; KIT electricity consumption is 100% certified Dutch wind energy, while its natural gas consumption (heating) is fully offset by KIT with Gold Standard carbon credits.

We therefore consider Scope 2 emissions to be zero.

#### **Scope 3** *Category 6: Business travel*

During 2023, the GABV Secretariat has flown 146.380 km on short haul flights and 551.900 km on long haul flights. Total estimated emissions for this Scope 3 category are 172 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq.<sup>iv</sup>

While we take steps to minimize travel, for a global movement, we believe spending time together in person to discuss and collaborate is essential. It allows the network and its members to make lasting, positive change a reality. Given this, we consider business travel related emissions hard to abate and compensate for them by financing meaningful, certified climate mitigation and adaptation forestry projects (more details below).



## ***Compensation of residual GHG emissions***

In order to compensate for 100% of its residual GHG emissions (172 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq.), the GABV secretariat joined a public-private partnership (PPP) for the conservation of biodiversity and climate change mitigation in the Lombardy Region (Italy), close to the locations where the 2024 GABV annual meeting will take place. The BioClima initiative is the largest PPP in the EU for financing the improvement of ecosystem services; the project aims at improving and restoring regional parks and protected areas (e.g. Natura 2000 sites)<sup>v</sup>.

The GABV Secretariat financed the removal of 172 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq. certified with the highest responsible forestry standards and verified by independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party auditors<sup>vi</sup>. The activities that were financed by the GABV secretariat include the containment of alien invasive species threatening the biodiversity of the Po River Forests<sup>vii</sup> in the municipality of Martignana di Po (Cremona). Sponsored activities that have led to the certified removal of additional CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere include enrichment planting and reforestation of native species (such as oak, ash, elm, white willow).

Supporting this project via a PPP is a way for the GABV to work with the public sector in the fight against the climate crisis, while also contributing to the protection and restoration of alluvial forests on the riverbanks of Italy's most important river basin.

## ***Provisionary statement***

In 2024, the GABV Secretariat intends to refine its calculations and identify ways to reduce its GHG emissions, in particular targeting emissions as part of a process of continuous improvement.

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<sup>i</sup> The GABV Secretariat chose Etifor as technical partner for this task. Etifor is a highly specialized environmental consulting company which puts nature at the heart of decision-making by developing science-based solutions; our technical partner is also a spin-off of the University of Padova, and a certified B Corp. More information available at: <https://www.etifor.com/en/>

<sup>ii</sup> Material emissions sources were selected according to the GHG Protocol (<https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-standard>). Data availability was also a factor, especially in Scope 2 estimates. Relevant emissions categories may be reevaluated in the upcoming years to account for sources of emissions yet to be included in the scope of the analysis.

<sup>iii</sup> Rented GABV share 26,83 m<sup>2</sup> out of a total net floor area of 29.193 m<sup>2</sup> (0.00092 % of the total). This factor is applied to determine the secretariat's approximate energy and heating consumption out of the total KIT purchased energy and heat (2.428.659 kWh and 281.763 m<sup>3</sup> of natural gas). Data available for 2022 only.

<sup>iv</sup> Emission factors (EF) adopted in kgCO<sub>2</sub>eq./km were 0,1860 for short haul flights, 0,2614 for long haul flights. For further details, visit the 2023 database of the UK Government's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2023>

<sup>v</sup> More information at: <https://www.wownature.eu/en/business/home/bioclima/>

<sup>vi</sup> The GABV sponsorship of the abovementioned activities and the resulting CO<sub>2</sub> claims will be publicly available in Q3 2024 at: <https://search.fsc.org/en/>, after independent third-party audits occur.

<sup>vii</sup> For more information about the project, please refer to: <https://www.wownature.eu/en/wow-area/po-river-forests/>