

Preface

This book suggests that social entrepreneurship centrally involves collaboration. The book itself is the result of a collaborative process. Six main authors – the core GETIDOS team – worked together to address people working in and on social entrepreneurship related to water and sustainability issues. This is a diverse group and we hope the book contributes to further reflection and collaboration. Chapter 1 introduces the issues and our approach, Chapters 2 through 6 present our case studies and Chapter 7 offers our conclusions on them. Finally, Chapter 8 presents our experiment in collaborative campaigning.

This book would not have been possible without the support and encouragement from a great number of people, organizations and institutions; we would like to acknowledge them here even if we cannot acknowledge everyone specifically.

GETIDOS has been supported by the social-ecological research programme of the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), which has generously financed this research from 2009–2013 at the University of Greifswald and at the Institute for Ecological Economy Research, Berlin. First Hermann Flau and then Claudia Müller ensured that there was always sufficient flexibility to conduct a dynamic research project.

Professor Johanna Mair and Professor Konrad Ott both agreed to serve as mentors of the research group and from the start they supported this project in many ways. In particular we discussed an early version of the introductory chapter in Konrad Ott's environmental ethics research colloquium, and different aspects of case study methodology with Johanna Mair. We are also very thankful for the support of Ashoka: Dr. Nir Tsuk helped get the project started and David Strelneck and Michal Vollmann accompanied further development of the research project and helped us bridge the gap between theory and practice. We also acknowledge the support of our advisory board members Dorothea Härlin, Dr. Esther Hoffmann, Dr. Johannes Merck and especially Nicole Maisch, who as a member of parliament helped us with the Big Jump Challenge and hosted the final event in the German Parliament.

At the heart of this book are the case studies. We would specifically

like to thank the social entrepreneurship initiatives presented here, both social entrepreneurs and staff within the organizations as well as network participants, for being very cooperative by patiently answering numerous questions, offering data and contacting partners. The case studies would clearly not have been possible without this openness. We are very grateful to Benjamin Adrion and Viva con Agua, Marta Echavarría and Ecodecision, Roberto Epple and the European Rivers Network, David Kuria and Ecotact, Michal Kravčík and People and Water, and Marcella D'Souza and WOTR.

These case studies were conducted in and across a wide variety of watersheds, not only geographically but also culturally. We are therefore very thankful to have conducted this research in cooperation with young researchers from the respective areas who helped us turn linguistic and cultural 'problem-sheds' into 'opportunity-sheds' for working together. Pavol Varga, the first visitor to our new offices in Greifswald, not only filled the empty space immediately with pictures and music from his native Slovakia, he also ensured that we could conduct our Slovakian case study in a way that was informed and respectful, in particular with a view to the rural people for whom he cares. Dr. Michal Gazovic, following the completion of his PhD in Greifswald, joined the Slovak team and provided invaluable and patient help with the survey and interviews. Benson Karanja endured a snowy and cold winter in Greifswald to prepare our Ecotact case study; always in a good spirit, he was of invaluable help for conducting interviews and the survey in Nairobi. Dr. Christian Dietsche accompanied Rafael during the first trip to Nairobi and generously offered his methodological insight. He also stoically endured joint sessions counting toilet users in a dusty marketplace, where he stood out as a very tall foreigner, with whom local market visitors liked to take pictures (while we studied toilets as 'toilet monuments', people studied him as a 'basketball star'). Balachandra Hegde participated in a seminar in Greifswald, where we saw his keen interest in nature conservation and social entrepreneurship. He helped conduct the WOTR case study and through numerous conversations about the capabilities approach, sustainability and poverty, he greatly improved our background understanding of the rich complexity of Indian traditions, which not only informed WOTR but also provided much inspiration for the Ashoka approach to social entrepreneurship. Grace Viera Andrade first came to Greifswald to join the team and then made us feel at home at her family's place in Quito, Ecuador, helping us to conduct the Marta Echavarría case study and to get a glimpse of Ecuadorian life. Léa Bigot arrived on a sunny afternoon in Greifswald to support the Roberto Epple case study. While the evening brought rain and prevented us from having dinner at the Museum's harbour, the rest of the case study went

smoothly because of Léa's consistent and highly competent backing, not only in organizational matters but also with regards to content. Christoph Buschmann, who unfortunately did not get to travel, enormously supported the Viva con Agua case study as a desk scout who thoroughly mapped the Viva con Agua cosmos, patiently collecting ever more information and continuously keeping track of all the developments of the case.

The case studies in this book have benefitted from much prior discussion. Change reports, including our non-public recommendations, were sent to the initiatives named above and then jointly discussed at a conference in Frankfurt in September 2012. In preparation for this conference, as well as the research on sanitation more generally, Danica Straith was of great assistance as an intern in Berlin, who cheerfully endured never-ending scaling-taxonomy discussions and helped bring them together for the Frankfurt conference.

Our experiment with a collaborative competition – the Big Jump Challenge discussed in Chapter 8 – is the joint product of working together with the betterplace lab, the Deutsche Umwelthilfe, Grüne Liga Berlin, the European Rivers Network and Viva con Agua. We gratefully acknowledge their inputs. Central for this experiment were the challenge coordinators Nele Kapretz and Sabrina Schultz, who coordinated the various partners, especially the contact with youth groups; we thank them for their tireless work. In organizing and evaluating collaborative campaigns and Ryck jumps, Lukas Richter, Jassa Best, Nando Hamker, Juliane Fritzsich, Kathrin Mangelsen, Julia Pohlers, Martin Schreck and Wencke Wendlandt greatly helped with the survey, media analysis and organizational matters. We gratefully acknowledge the work of Martin Grov in preparing the index and Doro Will in preparing the water maps.

Six authors could not write a book together without important people in the background. Our first project manager Eva Wascher managed our group of six people from six different disciplines in a spirit of getting things done together and sustainably. Our current project manager Claudia Rettich patiently helped prepare the final manuscript as well as 'keeping things together' with a view to the many loose ends at the end of a project.

Six German-speaking authors should probably not write a book together in English unless they have a good editor. We are very thankful to Amelia Pope, who not only thoroughly edited the language of the entire book but also offered very helpful comments on the entire draft, and the editors at Edward Elgar for their professional and encouraging support.

Last but certainly not least, it is almost impossible for six authors to duly thank all families and friends. Thank you to each of you for your support in this journey.