

Code of Conduct

Guidelines of the Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung for handling donations and sponsoring

INTRODUCTION

The Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung (hereinafter SGN) welcomes civic engagement aimed at supporting its collections, the diversity of research and its communication, as well as the infrastructural facilities of the SGN. The SGN is committed to the judicious and thoughtful treatment of the Earth and its natural resources. Through its research, it aims to contribute to a better understanding of the “Earth-human system,” its complex dynamics, and the far-reaching interactions between habitats and human influences. To study and preserve the diversity of life on Earth – that is the goal of the SGN.

Working at Senckenberg is based on team spirit, mutual respect and appreciation. The SGN considers itself to be an open-minded and non-violent organization and respects that protects the personal rights of every individual regardless of gender, ethnic or social origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion, ideology, or political views. These values also constitute the basis for cooperation with the SGN’s sponsors. The SGN approaches its sponsors with recognition and appreciation and strives for a long-term relationship based on trust. In general, every sponsor, donor, or supporter should identify with, appreciate, and support the SGN’s values, mission, and goals.

In order to meet its claim to fairness and integrity, the SGN has developed the following Code of Conduct, which regulates the cooperation between the SGN and its sponsors. It addresses the SGN’s obligations towards sponsors as well as the requirements and exclusion criteria for collaborating with the SGN.

SENCKENBERG GESELLSCHAFT FÜR NATURFORSCHUNG

SENCKENBERG Gesellschaft für Naturforschung | Senckenberganlage 25 | D-60325 Frankfurt am Main
Board of Directors: Prof. Dr. Klement Tockner, Prof. Dr. Andreas Mulch, Dr. Martin Mittelbach, Prof. Dr. Katrin Böhning-Gaese, Prof. Dr. Karsten Wesche

Frankfurter Sparkasse | IBAN DE15500502010000760157 | SWIFT HELADEF1822 | UStIDNr. DE114235295

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1. VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS OF THE SGN

The SGN undertakes to observe the following standards when accepting donations or working together with sponsors:

1.1 Transparency:

- The SGN provides a transparent account of the use of the funds and services donated, endowed, or otherwise made available.
- The SGN ensures the proper use of the funds and services received.
- The SGN regularly informs its sponsors about the progress of the projects they are supporting.

1.2 Compliance with anti-corruption regulations:

- Donations must benefit the SGN as an institution – direct contributions to individual SGN members are not permitted.

1.3 Data protection and data management:

- Personal data of sponsors will be treated confidentially and in accordance with the applicable data protection regulations.
- Information regarding the funding will not be passed on to third parties without the consent of the parties involved.

1.4 Integrity & diligence:

- The SGN ensures that project-specific contributions are only used for the stated purposes.
- The SGN undertakes to pay the utmost attention to efficiency and economy in the use of funds.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR SPONSORS OF THE SGN

As a rule, potential sponsors should feel committed to adhering to the *Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive* (CSRD), which was presented by the EU Commission on April 21, 2021. In addition, the following criteria form the basis for receiving donations or cooperating with sponsoring companies, foundations, or individuals:

2.1 Safeguarding the reputation and independence of the SGN as a research institution, including its museums, as well as its employees.

2.2 Ensuring that the scientific research and museum work and presentation remain unaffected by potential economic or other particular interests.

2.3 Avoiding conflicts of interest between the SGN and its sponsors.

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2.4 The protection and preservation of natural resources and biodiversity must be given special consideration, and sponsors should strive for a sustainable, environmentally and socially compatible business philosophy.

3. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

When reviewing a collaboration, the SGN takes the following into account:

3.1 The SGN will not accept any funds or services from organizations or persons who do not respect the personal rights of any individual regardless of gender, ethnic or social origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, identity, religion, ideology, or political views.

3.2 The SGN will not accept any funds or services from organizations or persons if they originate from activities that violate human or fundamental rights.

3.3 The SGN will not accept funds or services that are provided anonymously or through an intermediary who is unwilling to identify the sponsor to the SGN. The SGN will not agree to requests for anonymity from its sponsors if the SGN is concerned about a conflict of interest or has other ethical reservations.

3.4 The SGN will not accept any funds or services from organizations or persons if these originate from criminal acts or if the SGN itself would be in breach of the law by accepting them.

3.5 The SGN will not apply for donations, sponsorships, or grants or accept funds and services if acceptance would be contrary to the interests of the SGN. For instance, this could be the case in the following circumstances:

- Interference with the SGN's obligations to other sponsors, partners, visitors, or public funding bodies.
- Creation of a conflict of interest that is unacceptable for the SGN.
- Damage to the reputation, independence, or integrity of the SGN.
- Damage to the SGN's ability to fulfill its objectives, including interference with SGN's freedom to realize its research projects, exhibitions, and programs.

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