

# Gartenfreund

*Exploring the Botanical Garden  
with an Inclusive App*



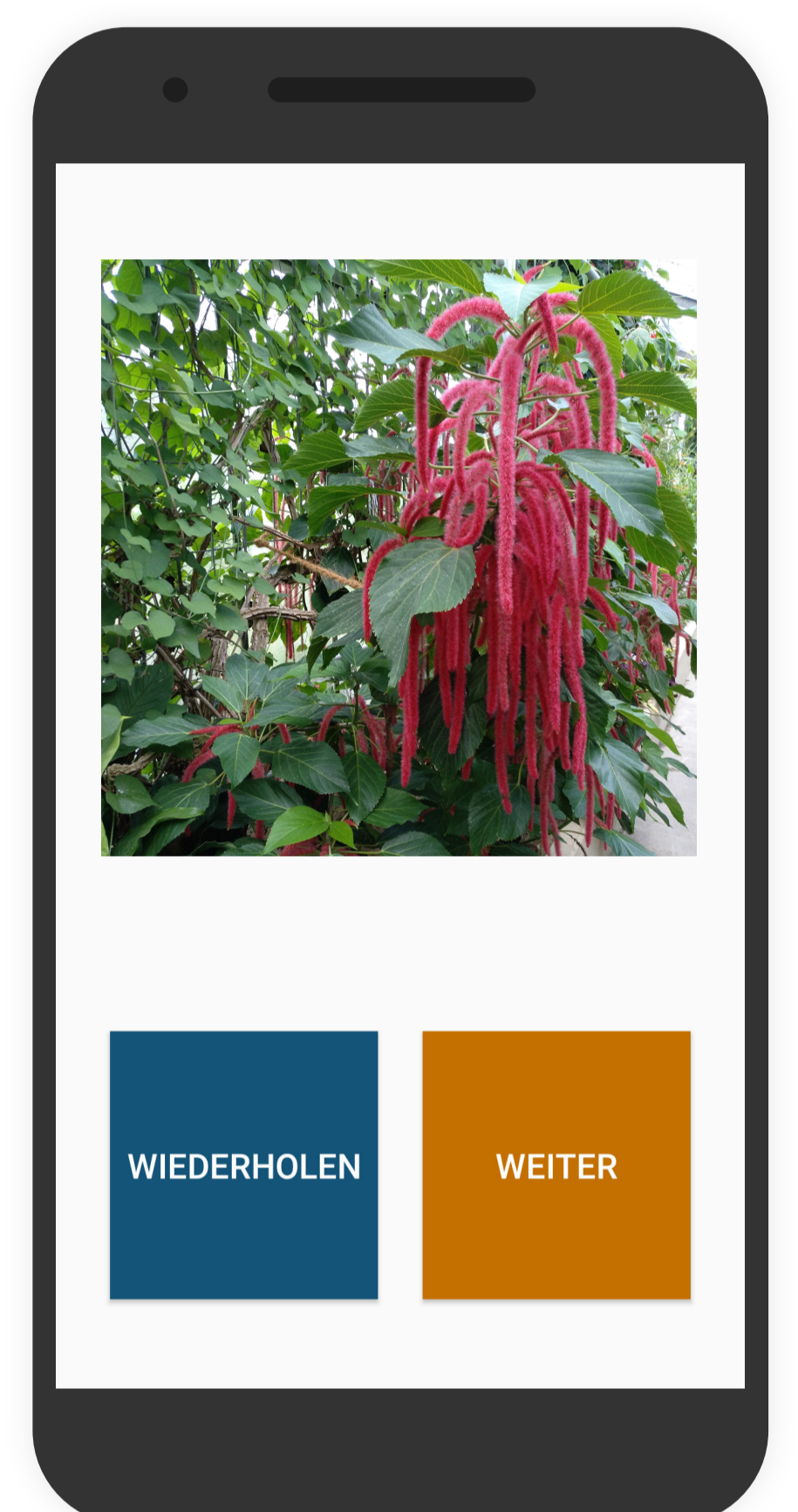
## DESIGN PROCESS

After a blindfolded self-experience at a botanical garden and a contextual interview with two visually impaired people we decided to develop a prototype of an inclusive app to improve the user experience for visually impaired and sighted visitors.

## AUDIO GUIDE

The app works via NFC tags placed along the path of the tropical rain forest greenhouse. Each tag is placed on a wooden disk on a desk to make it easy to identify by touch for blind people. When a tag is scanned the app plays an audio description of a significant plant nearby. Precise path descriptions guide blind visitors towards the next station.

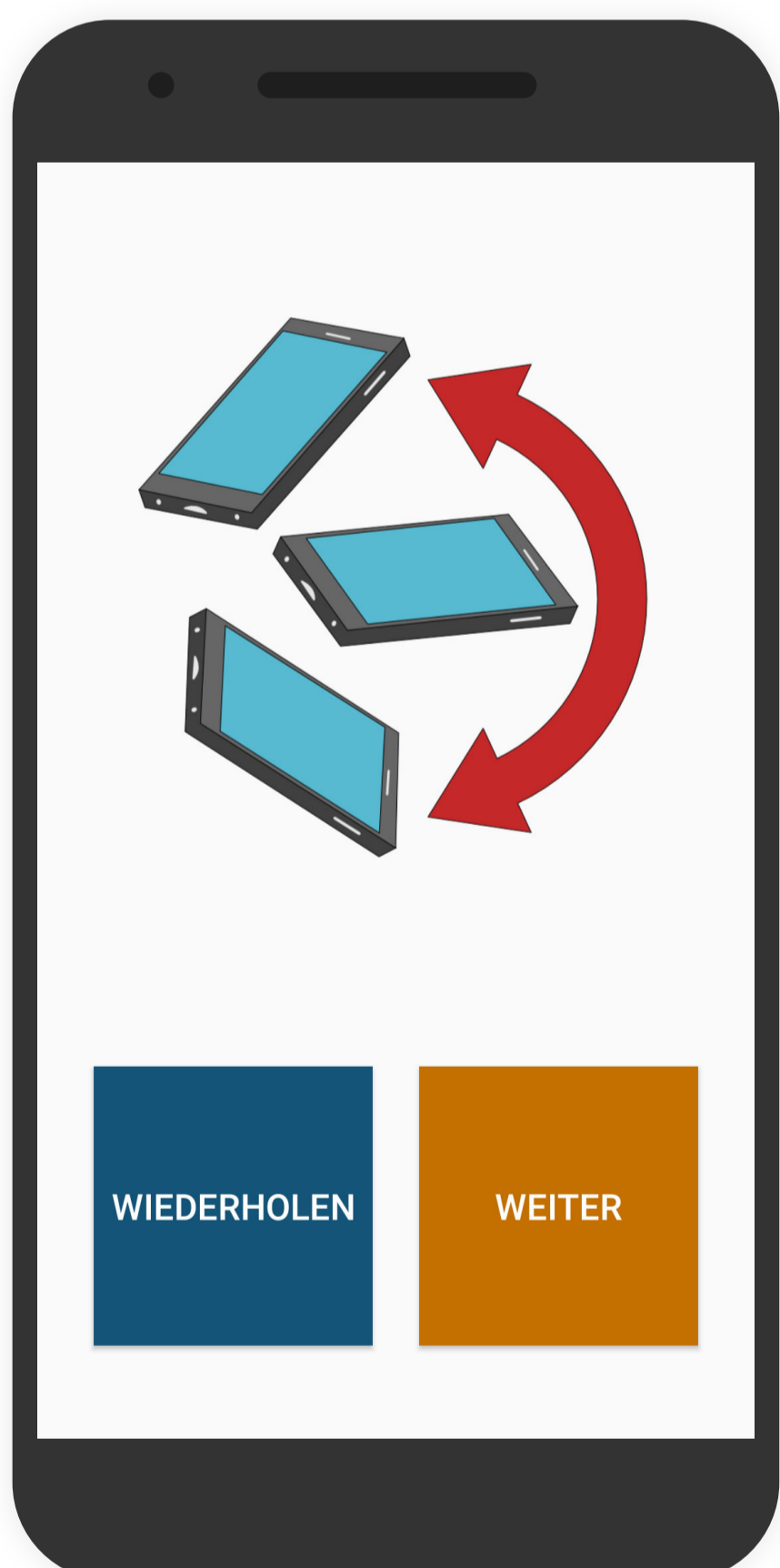
Scan the tag!



## SOUNDSCAPE

The app offers an augmented soundscape that allows users to explore different levels of the rain forest. It provides animal soundscapes from three different vegetation layers among which users can switch by tilting the smartphone and pointing it at the chosen level.

Try the soundscape!



## USER TESTING

The application has been thoroughly tested by two visually impaired users and given a try by the visitors of a project presentation at a botanical garden. First results indicate that users liked the self-determined retrieval of auditory information and especially enjoyed the soundscape.

Cooperation