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Drought at Poyang



Due to the devastating drought, many fishermen had to lay down their work.

Everyone was deeply concerned with reports of severe famine in Somalia and Kenya and the never-ending calamities related to it – periods of extreme drought followed by heavy rains.

Only very few people know that also Lake Poyang, China’s largest freshwater lake, was hit by a devastating drought between the be-

ginning and middle of this year. During this exceptionally long lasting dry period the Living Lakes member lake shrunk to one tenth of its original size causing cracks in soil, drying up of lakes and rivers, mass death of fish as well as an enormous loss in rice cultivation in the catchment of Lake Poyang. The worst affected were local fishermen and farmers. The reason behind this disaster is the low plant population of the region, decimated by deforestation and agricultural development, and thus can store only small quantities of water. And while fighting the drought, the next disaster was approaching – just as in Somalia: sudden rains. The heavy rainfall inundated the dry soils, whole villages were washed away by the torrents, and mudflows caused the death of several people.

The sharp shift between drought and rainfall is not unusual in the Poyang region – however this year’s intensity is anomalous. This alarming development is partly due to the advancing climate change, but also to river mismanagement such as damming up rivers. Natural courses and shoreline vegetation can better cope with masses of water than human constructions, says the GNF partner MRLSD (Promotion Association for Mountain-River-Lake Regional Sustainable Development). The partners stress that improved forest structures and water storage capacity of soils are indispensable in the fight against these effects of climate change.



Dr. Tillmann Stottele

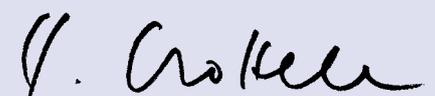
Preface

We are living in times of increasing instability. Volatile stock prices at the financial markets are the indicator of growing insecurity. Fluctuating water levels of lakes all over the world reflect the declining predictability of nature. Droughts, like at China’s Poyang Lake this spring or at Laguna de Fúquene in Colombia, are followed by devastating floods. Victims are, besides

the rare fauna and flora, predominantly the local people.

Despite these developments, the GNF and its partner organisations champion the protection of lakes and the local communities in various projects – whether in Kenya, at Lake Atitlán in Guatemala, in Mongolia or at the lakes of Germany. Bringing them together and strengthening them is the aim and mission of GNF. The increasing number of its employees and the implemented projects managed by them are an indicator for the growing environmental awareness of economy and people

as well as a reassurance that we indeed can change something for the better – with heart, hand and mind.



Dr. Tillmann Stottele, Commissioner for Environment and Sustainability of the town Friedrichshafen and member of the Advisory Board of GNF.

Lake Tonle Sap – Cambodia's Heart in Danger



Because of human impact, Tonle Sap is heavily endangered.

At Lake Tonle Sap, every year a thrilling natural phenomenon is happening, as the lake changes its size from initial 2.500km² to up to 20.000km² during the transition from dry period to rainy season. The area subject to flooding is a unique eco-system providing livelihood to thousands of fisher folk and their families living in their floating villages. 150 fish species, numerous water fowl, the endangered Siam crocodile and the exceptional fishing cat are still found there. Currently, this unique habitat is in jeopardy. In 1925, an area around the famous temples of Angkor Wat was declared a national park thus, today about 25 % of the country are under protection. However, land development, illegal logging of valuable tropical trees and the demand of animal organs for the traditional medicine threaten the existing biodiversity despite the protection status. Additionally, over-fishing of Lake Tonle Sap has heavily depleted the (formerly rich) fish stocks and has led to destructive fishing practices such as drift nets, gill nets, electro fishery and to the use of fish poison

in order to catch some fish at all. Besides fish, great masses of water snakes are being caught and used as cheap food in crocodile farms. Therefore, the endemic long head water snake is on the verge of extinction. The decline in natural fish and snake populations deprives all other species living around the lake of their basis of life. There is barely enough food for water fowl, turtles and the severely endangered fishing cat. However, not only ecosystems are suffering. Fisher folk and their families themselves destroy their own livelihood in the long run. To preserve biodiversity at Lake Tonle Sap and to safeguard the future of the fishermen families, GNF and its partner FACT started a pilot project. The goal of the initiative is the establishment of two nature reserves, of a pilot facility for sustainable fish farming, the formation of action groups comprising 25 fishermen families and the development of an eco-tourism concept. Since 2010, the Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT) has been a member of the international Living Lakes network.

Light for all

After the successful implementation of the solar lamps pilot project in Kenya in 2008, the „Umeme kwa Wote“ – “Light for all” concept will be expanded by five so called WE!Hubs (water energy hubs). At these WE!Hubs, the rural population may hire a battery powered solar lamp, which can be recharged against payment of a small fee. Additionally, the solar stations also offer the possibility to recharge mobile phones

and buy safe drinking water. Since July 2011, the project is being implemented by the GNF, in conjunction with the light manufacturer OSRAM, the Kenyan company Thames Electricals Ltd. And the social enterprise Light for Life. Constructing further solar stations, more people in rural areas will benefit from the access to environmental friendly and cheap electricity. Additionally, the project contributes significantly to cli-

The Checkers

More and more businesses integrate the biodiversity issue into their environmental management system. A biodiversity check provides a first overview on the companies' relation to biodiversity and identifies business impacts on biodiversity. Experts of the Business & Biodiversity (B&B) campaign check all fields, from business management to logistics for example in terms of their water and energy consumption. After the evaluation of the data, the B&B team makes suggestions to reduce harmful impacts and proposes biodiversity conservation measures. According to the branch of industry, they may be different. The outdoor company VAUDE for instance is investing in flowering meadows and nesting boxes at the company premises in Tettwang. The biodiversity checks are confidential, and there is no obligation on the part of the company to take further actions. The environmental experts, however, are convinced that the conservation of biodiversity will in the long run be advantageous to the environment, society and especially to the business companies, because minimisation of risks, cost reduction and increased staff motivation will have a positive impact on the balance. The GNF, Bodensee-Stiftung (Lake Constance Foundation) and the doeko consulting company are the organisers of the Business & Biodiversity (B&B) Campaign. Together with the consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers AG and B.A.U.M. e.V. they offer a biodiversity check tailored to the diverse industries. Ten companies, among them Fraport AG and VAUDE, have already made the “check”. The project is supported by the EU-Programme Life.

For more information, please contact:
www.business-biodiversity.eu/Biodiversitäts-Check



mate protection by replacing the harmful kerosene lamps. The project is supported by the EU-Programme EuropeAid and the Siemens Foundation.



SIEMENS | Stiftung



People in Dix-Huit Montagnes are pleased about clean drinking water.

Looking forward to next season 2011/2012!

The initiative „Drinking water for Africa“ will be continued! Also during the football season 2011/2012, spectators of Hannover 96 home matches may instead of getting a refund on the deposit of their cups return the cup to campaign stands and donate the deposit to the drinking water projects in Kenya and the Ivory Coast. With the proceeds of the last football season, it was

possible to repair three water pumps in the region of Dix-Huit Montagnes in the Western part of Ivory Coast. This year, from the proceeds from the campaign, eleven more water pumps will be repaired in the west and centre of Ivory Coast. The successful campaign „Drinking Water for Africa“ was launched in 2009 by GNF, TUI, Hannover 96 and the fan association „Rote Kurve“.

Improving the water quality at Lake Atitlán



Researchers collecting water samples.

In 2010, at Lake Atitlán in Guatemala the GNF and its partner Vivamos Mejor started a project to improve the water quality of the lake. For that reason national and international scientific partners and the responsible authority monitored the water quality and the eco-system on several occasions. The water samples were analysed with regard to their chemical, biological and physical properties such as temperature, oxygen and salt content, pH value, cloudiness or concentration of solutes and plankton. In parallel, the people living in the lake regi-

on will be informed comprehensively about the causes of the bad water quality and of possibilities to stop the pollution of the lake. This sensitisation campaign is geared towards women and children. The installation of a green filter to clean the domestic waste water of the people living around the lake should also contribute to improve the water quality. Sadly, the green filter has been almost completely destroyed by the tropical storm Agatha in 2010. Regrettably, a new green filter has not yet been installed in Panajachel, as all designated areas were unsuitable due to sloping surfaces or danger of flooding or they were privately owned and thus unsalable. An alternative could be the installation of so called Biodigestores. 50 families could be equipped with these small septic tanks thus reducing the wastewater discharge into the lake. Biodigestores are cheap and easy to maintain. They are most suitable for buildings or parts of a city that are not connected to the canalization.

Sea-buckthorn trees stop desertification

Lake Ulaan is fed by the waters of the Onggi River. But in recent years, less water has reached the lake. The lake is slowly drying up and the deserts are advancing due to the simultaneous occurrence of negative factors such as climate change, mining, and water mismanagement. To halt the advancing desert, the local GNF partner United Movement of Mongolian Rivers and Lakes (UMMRL) has planned to plant sea-buckthorn trees along the entire span of the Onggi River within the next few years. Sea-buckthorn belongs to the Elaeagnaceae family, and can store a lot of water due to its deep and extensive root system. It can reduce soil erosion and desertification, and despite the harsh climate is easy to grow in Mongolia. UMMRL supports the local people in sea buckthorn breeding and planting activities. The orange fruits are rich in vitamins and used to make juice, jam, lotions or skin creams thus providing the gardeners with an additional source of income.

With the support of the Hand in Hand Fund, UMMRL and local helpers are currently planting 1.200 sea-buckthorn trees on the river banks of the Onggi River.



The Mongolian foundation for environment UMMRL plants sea-buckthorn along the river Onggi

125 Years, 125 Projects

On the occasion of the automobile's 125th anniversary, Daimler sponsors, under the auspices of Dr. Dieter Zetsche, 125 social and ecological projects. In spring of this year Daimler staff throughout Germany could take part in the action „We move it“

and propose projects to be carried out in conjunction with non-profit organisations, associations and governmental institutions. The 125 winning projects will get a prize money of up to 5,000 EUR each and will be implemented in the course of 2011/2012.

Eight jurors, among them GNF Executive Director Udo Gattenlöhner, chose the winning projects that were either creative, resource-efficient, adapted to fit the current needs or dealing with social cooperation.

Lake Adventure Days

Summertime is swimming time at Germany's lakes. But the lakes offer far more than just refreshment in the hot season. From August to September 2011, under the motto "Lake Adventure Days 2011" a lot of creative actions and events were organised within the

frame of the network Living Lakes Germany providing information on water related issues and the protection of lakes in Germany. In the focus were environmentally friendly leisure activities for adults and children at the network member lakes. The actions

and the network are supported by Reckitt Benckiser, the world's number one household cleaning company.

Events

WaterVent

17 - 18 October 2011

Leeuwarden, Netherlands

This international meeting is geared towards businesses, NGOs and scientific institutions that are looking for investors to implement their ideas as well as investors ready to invest in promising approaches in the field of water efficient technologies (supply and disposal). For more information, please visit www.watervent.com

14th World Lakes Conference: „Lakes, Rivers, Groundwater and Coastal Areas: Understanding the Linkages“
31 October - 4 November 2011

Austin, Texas, USA

The Conference will be organised by the International Lake Environment Committee (ILEC) and the River Systems Institute at the Texas State University. Experts from indus-

trial and developing countries are invited to take part in the interactive Forum for the exchange of experiences in the fields of lake protection and management. The conference takes place every two years.

2nd Dialog Forum Biodiversity and Businesses

20 October 2011

Fulda, Germany

The second Dialog Forum "Biodiversity and businesses" shall contribute to the participation of economy and society in the National Strategy on Biological Diversity. The forum is organized by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and the Business & Biodiversity initiative. Members of companies, trade associations, NGOs and governing authorities are invited to exchange in the framework of the forum.

More information on: <http://veranstaltungen.baumev.de/default.asp?ID=33>

Exhibitions

Pantanal – A Nature Paradise in Danger

Library in the Forum Bodelshausen:
6 September - 22 October 2011

Zingst, Galerie Schule des Sehens:
5 November 2011 - 29 January 2012

Living Lakes Germany

House of Nature, Meisdorf/
City Falkenstein am Harz:
1 September – 7 October

Exhibition Jordan River

Chruch St. Michael, Cologne:
17 September – 8 October

Presentation: the importance of Jordan from a biblical point of view

Parish Church St. Michael, Cologne
6 October 2011, 7:30pm

Publications and online Information

Israeli, Palestine and Jordanian young people, in cooperation with FoEME staff, have composed a Jordan River Song and made a video clip with the aim of interesting more young people to protect the Jordan and to take part in the „Good Water Neighbours“ initiative. The song is about a love long dead between the Jordan River and its (former) largest tributary, Yamourk. You can view the video at: www.globalnature.org/jordan

The Annual Report 2010/2011 and the Report „Preservation of Cultural Landscapes 2010/2011“ are now ready and can be downloaded : www.globalnature.org/Annual-reports

| Imprint | Supporters | |
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|  <p>Global Nature Fund</p> <p>Fritz-Reichle-Ring 4 78315 Radolfzell, Germany Phone +49 (0) 7732 9995-0 Fax +49 (0) 7732 9995-88 E-Mail: info@globalnature.org www.globalnature.org</p> <p>Editor in Charge: Udo Gattenlöhner, GNF</p> | <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Lufthansa</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Sika</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>DAIMLER</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>OSRAM</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Reckitt Benckiser</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Stiftung Ursula Merz</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>EthikBank FAIRES GELD</p> <p>ANTON & PETRA EHRMANN • STIFTUNG</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>GLS Bank das macht Sinn</p> </div> </div> | |