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## Threatened Lake of the Year 2012: Lake Titicaca

the on-going destruction of the largest freshwater reservoir in South America.

First dramatic consequences of the climate change can be seen at Lake Titicaca in the Bolivian-Peruvian border region. Due to shortened rainy seasons from six to three months, the water level is constantly dropping. At the same time, more and more water is deducted for the irrigation of fields or for industrial use. The local population has increased considerably over the past few years. More and more people need food, water and land, leading to an increase in the amount of waste and sewage. For years, the neighbouring communities have relied on the self-cleaning capacity of the lake and discharged their waste water insufficiently purified into the lake – a mistake with consequences: The unrestricted nutrient intake leads to fast spreading duckweed carpets. The GNF, the Peruvian environmental organization Centro de Desarrollo Ambiental y Social and Trópico, strongly recommend effective protective measures to improve the water quality of the lake in order to preserve the beauty of the highest navigable lake.

Since December 2011, the Bolivian nature conservancy organization Trópico has been a partner of GNF in a project dealing with the impacts



*Still today, the indigenous population Uru live on traditional floating islands on lake Titicaca made out of straw.*

of climate change on Lake Titicaca. An environmental education campaign consisting, among others, of a film week, a photo competition, and the publication of different environmental education materials will inform the local people about the climate change and its consequences for their livelihoods. Additionally, Trópico, in conjunction with the La Paz city administration, is developing a climate protection concept for the megacity. Experiences made in Europe will serve as a model. Project supporter is the Ursula Merz Foundation.

More details at:

[www.globalnature.org/ThreatenedLake2012](http://www.globalnature.org/ThreatenedLake2012)

The breath-taking scenery of the second largest lake in South America cannot hide the serious environmental pressure on the lake. With the nomination of Lake Titicaca as Threatened Lake of the Year 2012, the GNF wishes to draw the international attention to



Marion Hammerl

### Preface

In these past weeks and months, numerous environmental organizations have been called on even more than usual- including the GNF. The European

Commission has presented drafts of the revisions to the most important European programs; including the Cohesion Fund with its regional development programs or LIFE, the EU's only direct funding instrument for environmental

and nature protection. The EU agriculture policies will be reformed, the EU Resource Efficiency Road Map was presented and the EU Blueprint for sustainable conservation of European water bodies is in production.

All EU policies and projects are of utmost importance for the protection of the environment and biodiversity. As a committed stakeholder, the GNF takes part in numerous consultations in order to set as positive a course as possible. The long years of practical project experience on the European and international level, as well as the continual exchange of experiences

with other organizations in the context of the Living Lakes Network and the European Business and Biodiversity Campaign help with this. We have compiled the most important developments in this newsletter for you!

Enjoy reading,



Marion Hammerl  
President of the GNF

## Vote for us!



The National Geographic Germany is calling on its readers to vote on six environmental initiatives until April 1st, 2012. The project with the most votes will receive funding for 2012 from the European Outdoor Conservation Association (EOCA). The GNF project „Black Rhinos“ has been nominated for the competition.

With this financial support GNF and its South African partner Wildlands Conservation Trust (WCT) will protect the Black and White Rhinos from poaching in a nature reserve in KwaZulu Natal. Due to the on-going great demand for rhino horn from Asia, poaching has reached alarming proportions. Since 2009, the reported incidents have almost tripled in South Africa! Particularly, the critically endangered Black Rhino population is severely threatened. As a promising protection measure, GPS devices will be fitted into the rhino's horn allowing a 24 hour live monitoring. The thus collected data will be continually evaluated and alarm is triggered as soon as a rhino shows unusual behaviour – this allows quick intervention and helps scaring off poachers.

**Please help us stop the brutal poaching.  
Please vote for our Black Rhino project at:  
[www.globalnature.org](http://www.globalnature.org)**



*Poachers are cutting off the horn of the rhinos in a most brutal way.*

## The long way to Lake Vostok

According to latest press reports, at the beginning of February, a team of Russian researchers has succeeded in penetrating Antarctica's Lake Vostok at a (drilling) depth of 3.768 metres. Apparently, only some few metres are still missing to reach the surface of the untouched lake so far. Some would even say the scientists have successfully drilled down to the lake. There is international controversy over whether drilling and penetrating the untouched water of Lake Vostok should be continued. Currently, the impact of the drilling on the water of Lake Vostok cannot be measured yet. According to the Russian scientists, drilling

was carried out under sterile conditions. It is, however, conceivable, that kerosene, silicone oil and other chemicals have been used to prevent the freezing of the drill hole. Therefore lake water contamination cannot be excluded.

Lake Vostok was discovered by radar echo soundings in 1974. For 15 million years, the lake has remained untouched under an almost four-kilometre- thick ice sheet. Currently, it is very difficult to get reliable information on the drilling itself, the conditions and depth of the drilling in Lake Vostok. Since 2004, the lake has been honorary member lake of the Living Lakes Network.

## Day of the Lagoon

As every year, the Uruguayan Living Lakes candidate FALCR has celebrated the Day of the Lagoon in January. The guests particularly enjoyed the bird ringing demonstration of Buff-breasted Sandpiper and American Golden Plover. The birds were not only ringed but also checked for their health. An

important part of the gathering is the traditional "asado" barbecue. Meat is among the most popular food in Uruguay. The joint project "Proyecto Pastizales" demonstrates that quality is important to the producers. The goal of this project is to preserve and protect pasture landscape. On the Day of the

## What has become of the Threatened Lake of 2011?

In 2011, the Colombian Lake Fúquene was nominated as "Threatened Lake of the Year". GNF then launched a petition to save the lake. In total, about 300 signatures were collected and forwarded to the Colombian Ministry for Environment. At the same time, the Colombian GNF partner organisation Fundación Humedales used the nomination as an opportunity to bring relevant actors together and initiate a discussion about the future of Lake Fúquene. In August 2011, representatives of numerous civil society organisations, local and regional authorities, university institutes as well as peasants and normal citizens came together. The meeting dealt with the following topics: Preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, climate change and participation of the citizens and government. Due to the current bad condition and threats to the lake, proposals for management strategies and action guidelines were developed. The conference marked a turning point in the participation of citizens. Since then, important activities to protect Lake Fúquene have been implemented in conjunction with the citizens committee at local and regional level. The citizens committee was established during the conference



*Committee for Defense of Lake Fúquene Created in the conference for Fúquene 2011.*

Lagoon, the newly printed guidelines were presented and distributed to the farmers and interested population.

For more information on this project, please contact: [www.avesuruguay.org.uy](http://www.avesuruguay.org.uy)

## Social Responsibility in small and medium-sized enterprises

Within the framework of the FMLSA (Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs) programme „CSR Corporate Social Responsibility in Small and Medium Sized Enterprises“, GNF will launch two projects in March and April to sensitize small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) for biodiversity and resource conservation. The project “Resource conservation as a CSR task for small and medium-sized enterprises in the Saarland and Rhineland-Palatinate” is geared towards regional SMEs, and is realized in conjunction with the Adelphi consulting firm and the Institute for Applied Material Flow Management, located at the Environmental Campus Birkenfeld. The second project „Nature Conservation and Biodiversity Preservation as a CSR task for small and medium-sized

enterprises “ addresses wineries and members of the Federal Association ECOVIN and will be carried out together with the Lake Constance Foundation. Project activities will comprise information meetings and consulting seminars with selected enterprises as well as biodiversity and resource checks. Additionally, concrete measures to conserve biodiversity and improve the resource efficiency for businesses will be developed. Guidelines with the results and experiences will be published as well. For more details please contact Stefan Hörmann at: [hoermann@globalnature.org](mailto:hoermann@globalnature.org)

### Supporters:



## New Asian Mangrove Network



*The dense mangrove root system provides ideal living conditions for larvae and young animals of numerous fresh and salt water species.*

This January, GNF together with five partners, launched a cross-border mangrove reforestation project. The goal of the network is to restore over 100 hectares destroyed or degraded mangrove forests in Sri Lanka, Cambodia, India and Thailand thereby protecting habitats, nurseries and food sources of partly endangered flora and fauna. Additionally, in close cooperation with the local people, alternative income sources will be created to reduce the strain on the

ecosystem in the long term. During the four year project duration, the network members will meet regularly to share and exchange experiences and information on their activities.

Mangrove forests are one of the most productive ecosystems on the planet with a species-rich wildlife. Unfortunately, they are also among the most threatened habitats in the world. About half of the mangrove forests have irrecoverably disappeared, especially over the past 30 years,

## What is a Biodiversity Check?

At the campaign website [www.business-biodiversity.eu/Biodiversitäts-Check](http://www.business-biodiversity.eu/Biodiversitäts-Check) the example of Michael, a furniture dealer, illustrates in simple terms the biodiversity check. The video shows impacts of entrepreneurial behaviour on biodiversity and points out how businessmen can benefit from the European Business & Biodiversity campaign. Have a look!

The Biodiversity Check was developed within the framework of the European Business & Biodiversity Campaign and provides a first overview on the company's (from all industrial sectors) relation to biodiversity. According to the Environmental Management Systems EMAS III und ISO 14.001, it assesses potential negative impacts on the biodiversity of individual business units, manufacturing facilities, products or processes, and identifies potential risks and dependences. Sustainability reports and other documents are examined and concrete questions formulated. The check proposes first measures for the sustainable use of resources and the conservation of nature to the companies.

### Supporter:



## Join the Big Jump 2012!

Take the plunge and help save the environment. That will be the goal of many young people who will plunge into their rivers and lakes on 17 June 2012 at the height of the Big Jump Challenge 2012 – together with their team members, friends, circle of acquaintances, and possibly even with the whole city. Starting from 14 March, via the Big

Jump Challenge online platform, the teams of young people between 14 and 21 years can network with each other or learn about the Water Framework Directive, contact the local water authorities or plan a river or lake event to raise the people's awareness for the European water pollution control. In autumn 2012, the campaign documentation will be

they have declined at an alarming rate. For more details, please visit: [www.globalnature.org/mangrove-network](http://www.globalnature.org/mangrove-network)

### Supporters:



Stiftung Ursula Merz

forwarded to the German Parliament. The Big Jump Challenge 2012 is a cooperation of Deutsche Umwelthilfe, Grüne Liga, Global Nature Fund, Viva con Agua, betterplace and GETIDOS. For more information, please visit [www.bigjump2012.net](http://www.bigjump2012.net)

## Important Dates

### 14<sup>th</sup> Living Lakes Conference POSTPONED to 2013

As, unfortunately, several funding promises on behalf of the City of Valencia, the water authority as well as the region of Valencia have not been kept, we find ourselves constrained to postpone the 14th Living Lakes Conference to 2013. For more details, please see:  
[www.globalnature.org/14LLK](http://www.globalnature.org/14LLK)

### FairHandeln 2012 (Fair Trade) 12 - 15 April 2012

[Stuttgart, Germany](http://Stuttgart, Germany)  
The international exhibition FAIR HANDELN (Fair Trade) presents globally responsible practice in economy, finance, tourism, consumption and development assistance. You can meet members of the Global Nature Fund at the information booth. For more information, please see:  
[www.fair-handeln.com](http://www.fair-handeln.com)

### European Biodiversity Summit 17 - 18 April 2012

[Stuttgart, Germany](http://Stuttgart, Germany)  
The „European Biodiversity Summit“ will be held during the 8th German CSR Forum, one of the most important meetings on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and sustainable corporate management in German speaking Europe.  
[www.csrforum.eu/summit](http://www.csrforum.eu/summit)

### 5<sup>th</sup> Workshop Forum Synergies 18 - 21 April 2012

[Val de Drugeon, France](http://Val de Drugeon, France)  
Information and registration at:  
[weickmann@globalnature.org](mailto:weickmann@globalnature.org)

### Living Lakes Canada Meeting 22 - 24 May 2012

[Lake Winnipeg, MB, Canada](http://Lake Winnipeg, MB, Canada)  
Information and Programme at:  
[www.livinglakes.ca](http://www.livinglakes.ca)

## Exhibitions

### PANTANAL – A NATURE PARADISE IN DANGER

#### LIVING LAKES GERMANY

More information and next dates at:  
[www.globalnature.org/exhibitions](http://www.globalnature.org/exhibitions)

#### JORDAN RIVER

#### EU Parlament

Brussels, Belgium  
9 – 13 April

#### Baltic-Mediterranean Spring Festival

Paide, Estonia  
18 - 20 May

#### Haus am Dom

Frankfurt, Germany  
23 August - 20 September

More information available at:  
[www.globalnature.org/jordan-fluss](http://www.globalnature.org/jordan-fluss)

## Publications and Online-Information

The **Lake District National Park** recently published a **Partnership's Plan**. The Partnership's Plan is the Management Plan - the most important document for a National Park. It tells everyone where the partners are heading, what the issues are and how they are going to tackle them with limited public funding.

Download at: [www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/caringfor/partnership/ldnppmanagementplan](http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/caringfor/partnership/ldnppmanagementplan)

The **2011 Windermere Management Strategy** sets out how the Lake District National Park, alongside with partners and other agencies is addressing the challenges that Windermere faces; water quality concerns, lake levels and the impact of climate change. It also explores what opportunities can be taken to protect and enhance Windermere for future generations.

Download at: [www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/caringfor/projects/windermereprojects/windemerestrategy](http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/caringfor/projects/windermereprojects/windemerestrategy)

Visit us also at:



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