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Sustainable Fishery and Eco-Tourism at Lake Tonle Sap in Cambodia



Lake Tonle Sap is the largest lake in South East Asia and one of the most productive inland fisheries in the world. Every year, during the wet season, a natural phenomenon occurs at the lake. The surface swells to three times its normal size. Several million people depend on the natural resources of Lake Tonle Sap, but the impacts of the increasing industrial fishery are becoming evident: Fish stocks are rapidly declining endangering the livelihood of fishermen.

To reduce the pressure on the natural resources, GNF in conjunction with the Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT), has launched a project to support sustainable fishery and ecotourism at Lake Tonle Sap at the beginning of 2012. Since then two environmental clubs were created involving 50 local fishers (among them 33 women) committed to sustainable use of the lake resources in ten focus areas. Participation in environmental education activities and information about alternative fishing methods contribute to promote sustainable behaviour among local fishermen and fisherwomen. Furthermore, government authorities and interested private regional groups were informed about the project thus ensuring future support of the implemented measures. Additionally, sustainable eco-tourism strategies were developed to provide the people living in the lake region alternative sources of income.



Fishermen at Tonle Sap



Local people depend on the natural resources of the lake

This project, funded by the Ursula Merz Foundation and the Hand in Hand Fund, will end at the end of 2012.

Preface

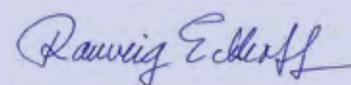
Life and Death in Middle East

The never-ending Gaza conflict will probably make FoEME's (Friends of the Earth Middle East) task to save the dying Jordan River even more difficult. The "holy lifeline" is in danger of running dry. Recently, in Amman and Jericho a unique conference was held. Political leaders from the belligerent countries came together to identify and discuss approaches. It was a long way to go before the meeting could be organised. The Israeli FoEME director Gidon Bromberg reported that

the competent minister had asked him: "Are you crazy? You are wrong if you think that we have even one cubic metre water left to release into the Jordan. You are a dreamer!"

Yes, the FoEME people are dreamers, who despite – or because of that – have great visions. One of them is the implementation of a trans-boundary master plan for the rehabilitation of the Lower Jordan Valley. But what can we do? We may be able to support eco-tourism, which was established in the cross-border areas by FoEME. As a traveller you must have plenty of time to pass through a number of military checkpoints! Logisti-

cal stumbling blocks make excursions an adventure. We will constantly be reminded that the Jordan River borders a war zone and a conflict area. But we can contribute our share to make peace and reconciliation a top priority to save the Jordan instead of hate and war.



Ranveig Eckhoff
Board Member Global Nature Fund



Picture: Itamar Gimberg

Natural World Heritage in Greatest Need – Rescue for the Jordan River!



The Jordan River is of extremely high cultural, political, economic and environmental importance – not only for the Middle East. Important world heritage sites can be found on its shores and the Jordan itself is holy for Christians, Jews and Muslims. Each year, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims symbolically get baptized in the river, even though the water in the Lower Jordan River represents a public health hazard. The diversion of over 96 % of its fresh water for industrial use, domestic consumption and agricultural irrigation has done untold damage to the river. Once a powerful stream, the Lower Jordan River is nowadays only a trickle of untreated sewage and salt water. By now, half of its biodiversity is destroyed and the otter as well as the 500 million migratory birds, which roost in the Jordan River Valley twice a year, are endangered.

Struggle for Water and New Hope for the Jordan

For many years our partner organization FoEME has been fighting for the protection of the water resources in the Middle East. Numerous research studies and position

papers to advance understanding towards the rehabilitation of the Lower Jordan River Valley have been published by FoEME. One goal identified in the reports aims to return 400 to 600 million cubic meters of good quality water to the river. In addition, new sewage treatment plants are planned to be build, in order to eliminate the largest source of pollution.

NGO Master Plan – A Vision for the Lower Jordan Valley

The project “NGO Master Plan: A Vision for the Lower Jordan Valley” began in early 2012. Together with FoEME and the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), the Global Nature Fund (GNF) advocates the joint cooperation of Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian decision makers for the rehabilitation of the Lower Jordan.

A central objective of the project is the elaboration of a trans-boundary regional development plan for the Lower Jordan River Basin. Furthermore, regional cooperation and dialogue between Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian decision makers need to be strengthened. The successful cooperation in this project shall pave the way for further relations between the three countries. For the development of the master plan, an international team of experts led by Royal Haskoning, DHV and involving experts from the Netherlands, Palestine, Jordan, and Israel were hired. The GNF will support the project with its experience in the field of international and European water management. The project is funded by the European Union in the framework of the SWIM program (Sustainable Water Integrated Management).

There are still 80,000 euros missing for the project. Please help to bring the holy Jordan River back to life with your donation!

More information available at www.globalnature.org

Donation account:
GLS-Gemeinschaftsbank Bochum
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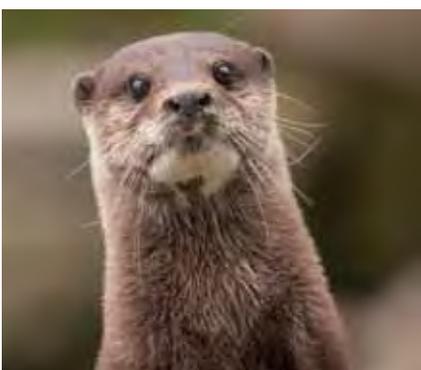
Bruno H. Schubert Award to Marion Hammerl

Our President Marion Hammerl was awarded the Bruno H. Schubert Prize for her honorary commitment to the protection of the environment and nature on November 13, 2012. Bruno H. Schubert, a former brewery owner and honorary citizen of Frankfurt, established the foundation that bears his name. Together with Mr Hugo and Mrs Elsabé van der Westhuizen, who have been dedicated to the protection of nature in Africa for 15 years, Marion Hammerl was honoured for her work in the Living Lakes network. Another prize winner is Professor Yossi Leshem from Israel, who was awarded the prize for his outstanding ornithological studies and cross-border bird conservation initiatives involving Israel, Palestinian Territories and Jordan thus contributing to peace in this region.

Marion Hammerl will divide the prize money equally between the Fundación Global Nature (FGN) – she is a co-founder of FGN – and the Global Nature Fund to support the project work of both NGOs.

We cordially congratulate our president on this award.

Picture: William Warby



Otters need clean water!

Over two million years old Lake Hovsgol in Mongolia endangered despite the remoteness



The flight from the Mongolian capital Ulaanbaatar (UB) to the Provincial capital Moron with one single runway lasts about 1.5 hours. There are only a few shops, almost no roads covered with tarmac and only two traffic lights in Moron. It takes three more hours to reach the national park and the idyllic Lake Hovsgol (Living Lakes member since 2011) via a mogul field. Here you may expect a peaceful solitude. But now, new roads, a regional airport as well as a new border checkpoint to Russia shall be built to facilitate access to Lake Hovsgol. This will lead to a rapid increase in visitor numbers. Even now, the negative impacts are evident: wide spread wild camping and litter being left behind by the campers can be frequently observed. The sanitary facilities and water

treatment units available in the yurt camps, used as tourist accommodations, are very simple and rudimentary. Some of them are illegal and located too close to the lake shore. On an area of 1.2 million hectares, 20 rangers fight a losing battle in the national park, and the control of the camps falls by the wayside. Here, the project of the Global Nature Fund and its partner organisation Mongol Ecology Centre, funded by the EU delegation in Mongolia, comes into play. Training courses are organised to provide park authorities and rangers with all practical skills and knowledge required to sensitize tourists on the importance of nature conservation. At the same time, camp facilities shall be improved according to eco-tourism standards, and a traditional system

of horse terminals and trails (Morin Ortoo) shall be re-established. Thus, the local population may improve the benefit from the tourism sector and at the same protect the natural resources.

Supporter: European Union within the "Non-State Actors in Development – Mongolia" Programme.



Yurt camp at Lake Hovsgol

Managing Challenges in Lake Areas: Learning for Lakes

"What I am going to take away with me? – 33 new friends!" – that was the answer of one of the participants of the third workshop within the project "Learning for Lakes". 34 participants from four European countries spent five full days at Lake Constance to discuss the topic Economic Development in Lake Areas. The experts on tourism and international co-operation at Lake Constance presented their experiences. The excursions to the nature conservation area Wollmatinger Reed, the ecological agricultural community Heggelbach as well as the presentation of the nature friendly accommodation in Nature Friends House offered the opportunity to

experience and to compare different initiatives on site. The guests from Hungary, UK, Poland, and Spain presented their projects in this field.

Participants discussed in groups main challenges of their areas including seasonality, sustainable options for tourism, as well as balance between tourism and nature conservation. The results of the work will form a part of the final project output – an E-learning tool on Lake Management.

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission under the Lifelong Learning Programme.



Participants of the workshop at Lake Constance

Meeting of the Friends of Living Lakes

In glorious late summer weather, the meeting of the friends of Living Lakes took place at the Chiemsee from 18-20 October 2012. Under expert guidance of the staff of the Chiemsee-Nature Guide Association, the group of seven spent two wonderful days at the largest lake in Bavaria, which is a member of the Living Lakes Network in Germany since 2010. During their stay, the visitors not only learned about the glacial origin of the lake, but also visited a stagnant ice hole. In a hydrological study using a Ruttner water sampler, the water temperature was determined at different sea depths and the participants learned in detail about the

interplay of zoo- and phytoplankton. Fishing is still of high value at the Chiemsee. The type of fish with the highest demand is called "Renke", a great tasting fish of the species known as whitefishes. Other activities included visits to an organic farm as well as to the "Frauen- und Herreninsel" (women's and men's island). 20 different species of bats live in the attic of the castle "Herrenchiemsee", including the greater mouse-eared bat. However, the bats had already retreated into their wintering grounds in Austria.

For all visitors, the meeting at Chiemsee was a particularly informative event.



The group of visitors in Gstadt at the Chiemsee

Dates

1 December 2012 - 24 February 2013

Exhibition "Living Lakes Germany"
NaturFreundeHaus Bodensee,
Radolfzeller Str. 1, Radolfzell, Germany
www.naturfreundehaus-bodensee.de

3 - 6 January 2013

**Nature Conservation Days
at Lake Constance** - Milchwerk Radolfzell,
Radolfzell am Bodensee, Germany
www.naturschutztage.de

3 - 6 January 2013

Exhibition to Save the Jordan
as part of the Nature Conservation Days
at Lake Constance - Milchwerk Radolfzell,
Radolfzell am Bodensee, Germany
www.globalnature.org/Jordan-Fluss

5th January 2013, 2 - 4 pm

**Biological diversity in ecological vini-
culture**
Talk with Ralph Dejas, ECOVIN,
Thomas Schaefer, Global Nature Fund (GNF)
and Patrick Trötschler, Lake Constance
Foundation - Milchwerk Radolfzell,
Radolfzell am Bodensee, Germany
www.naturschutztage.de

18 - 22 February 2013

Project Meeting "Learning for Lakes"
Great Britain
www.globalnature.org/FürSeenLernen

Imprint



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Publications and online information

**GNF Annual Report 2011/2012 &
Annual Report "Protection of Cultural Landscapes"**

Both publications can be downloaded in German and English on our website:
www.globalnature.org/Annual-reports

GNF Flyer Living Lakes

The updated flyer summarizes the range of projects of the Global Nature Fund as well as the objectives and priorities of the Living Lakes Network. The flyer is available in German and English. www.globalnature.org/publications

New website for the project

"Careful Use of Resources as a CSR task for SMEs, Germany"

For further information on our activities in the field "Corporate Social Responsibility in SMEs" please visit: www.kmu-nachhaltigkeitscheck.de

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