

Newsletter 1/2013

Contents

- » Mindelsee – “Living Lake of the Year 2013”
- » Drinking Water – a human right
- » Rhinos under Observation
- » Algal Blooms at Lake Winnipeg
- » Big Jump Challenge 2013
- » Business & Biodiversity
- » News and Events



Mindelsee – best practice example of successful nature protection

Mindelsee is “Living Lake of the Year 2013”

A rich source of biodiversity

A thin veil of mist lies upon the lake. The birds are up and chirping their song to welcome the morning. Experienced birdwatchers may discover, hidden in the dense shore vegetation, a ferruginous duck, an endangered species worldwide. It is one of 210 bird species found at Mindelsee. Some 2.000 animal species and 700 different flowering plants have been recorded so far, among them 20 species of orchid. A perfect idyll? Almost – the “Living Lake 2013” is a best practice example of successful nature protection. Regierungspräsidium Freiburg (regional authority in Baden-Württemberg) and BUND, the GNF networking partner, successfully cooperate, also thanks to the support of trainees and volunteers. Nevertheless, due to increasing tourism animals are losing resting places, and dogs that are not kept on leashes are often chasing ground-nesting birds. Additionally, due to financial restrictions nature friendly landscape maintenance, traditionally done by hand, is replaced by cheaper machine mowing. This large-scale intervention in nature may cause loss of habitats and biodiversity. The nomination of Mindelsee as “Living Lake

of the Year 2013” recognises the value of this natural oasis for flora and fauna in Germany, and it will facilitate adequate protection of the Mindelsee area in future.

Experts of the network Living Lakes Germany meet regularly at the Living Lake of the Year to jointly develop effective solutions for the protection of lakes.

For further information, please visit:
www.globalnature.org/LebendigeSee2013



The Meadow Brown – one of 433 butterfly species

Preface

“Think International, Act Regional”

15 years ago a small visionary group of individuals launched Global Nature Fund (GNF). They were inspired by the courage and achievement of considerable Non-Government Organisations. They set out to build a European based organisation that could support similar organisations throughout the world. GNF's first campaign was the still existing Living Lakes Network. Starting with 4 Lakes – Lake Constance in Germany, Lake Biwa in Japan, Lake St Lucia in South Africa and Mono Lake in California, the network has grown to 102 member Lakes spread across 36 countries. Feeding of a collective energy and passion, the GNF team has ex-

panded the portfolio of projects beyond water and Lake conservation initiatives, to include Nature and Biodiversity Conservation, Energy, Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Environmental Education initiatives. Evolving GNF into a broad based environmental organisation that has demonstrated its ability to respond to environmental challenges as they emerge.

What distinguishes GNF from most of the other international environmental organisations is that it has not supported its growth by opening offices in the countries that it works in. Rather it has

remained true to its Founders Vision, and identified local organisations that it can partner with, developing and nurturing local capacity. I have no doubt that this approach, and the platform built by the GNF team over the past 15 years, positions GNF as an organisation that will play a truly Global and catalytic role over the next 15 years!



Dr. Andrew Venter
Wildlands Conservation Trust
Board member the GNF



Smiling faces after repair of a well of the village of Fronobo (Ivory Coast)



High activity at the new well in the village of Koffi Ahoussoukro (Ivory Coast)

Drinking Water – a human right – but not respected everywhere!

Despite the fact that the access to safe drinking water was declared a human right in 2011, UN says that 800 million people worldwide still do not have access to clean drinking water. Particularly in Africa, this is a major problem. Only 12 per cent of the rural households in Kenya are connected to piped water, in Burundi the estimated connection rate is less than 40 per cent. The majority of the rural population must fetch the amount of water needed a day from rivers and lakes that are often polluted causing diseases such as diarrhoea. In Africa, every day thousands of people still die from diarrhoeal diseases, particularly children.

Since 2008, the Global Nature Fund, in conjunction with its local partners, provides clean drinking water to undersupplied regions in Kenya, Burundi and Ivory Coast. Up to now, in Kenya 4500 school-

children and orphans at six locations are supplied with water. Currently, in the communities of Kandara and Gitune drinking water facilities are being built. SkyHydrant water filtration units filter surface water taken from nearby bodies of water. One filter system produces approximately 700 litres of clean drinking water per hour. The clean water is stored in closed tanks and made available to the local people at a low price. Proceeds are used for the technical service and maintenance of the water filtration system.

In Burundi, in the regions of Kagwema and Rukaramu, several wells were put into operation again, and the pumped ground water is filtered. Over 5.000 people, among them many school kids are finally supplied with clean drinking water. Another 20 wells are currently being repaired in the regions of Man and N'zi

Comoé in Ivory Coast. Since 2011, 22 wells have been repaired and thanks to the successful project over 12,000 people enjoy safe water. Angel Koua Yaba, a young mother from the village of Bouafoukro in Ivory Coast is very happy: "Finally, we have clean water because the water pump is operating again, now we feel much better, and I am extremely happy to give my children clean water to drink."

Please support us:

More information available at
www.globalnature.org

Donation account:

GLS-Gemeinschaftsbank Bochum
IBAN: DE 53 4306 0967 8040 4160 00
BIC: GENODEM1GLS
Key word: Drinking Water for Africa

Rhinos under Observation Monitoring with GPS transmitters

Rhino poaching has dramatically increased in the last few years in South Africa and is a serious threat to the survival of the two African rhino species. In 2012, over 660 black and white rhinos were killed by criminal poachers – seven times more than four years ago.

Against this background, at the beginning of 2012, GNF, in conjunction with its South African partner Wildlands Conservation Trust, started a project to test new technologies in the fight against rhino poaching. Thanks to GPS satellite-transmitters, implanted inside the rhinos

horns (a pain free procedure), the position and movements of the animals are monitored and transmitted to an "alert station". Thus trained rangers may intervene quickly in case of emergency. GPS transmitters help protect the rhinos more effectively. Educational programmes informed the local population about the growing problem of illegal poaching and alternatives to this bloody business. Currently, Wildlands Conservation Trust, in conjunction with the manufacturing company, is working on improving the GPS system, which shall be ready for use soon.

The project was supported by the Foundation Ursula Merz, Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V. and Rapunzel Naturkost with funds from the Hand in Hand Fund.



Rhinos are still endangered

Algal Blooms at Lake Winnipeg

Canada's third largest freshwater lake declared "Threatened Lake of the Year 2013"

Lake Winnipeg is located in the Canadian province of Manitoba, also known as the "Land of 100,000 lakes". This idyllic landscape in the heart of Canada, characterised by lakes and wetlands, can't make up for the fact that the health of the world's tenth largest lake is in jeopardy. Lake Winnipeg is about 45 times larger than Lake Constance. The watershed's population density is low, about seven inhabitants per sq. km only compared to nearly 230 inhabitants per sq. km in Germany. Despite the low population density, nutrients and pesticides in agricultural run-off threaten the lake by stimulating excessive growth of algae. This leads to low oxygen levels in the water, damaging the lake's natural flora and



Algal blooms at Lake Winnipeg

fauna. In the light of the situation, GNF has declared Lake Winnipeg as "Threatened Lake of the Year 2013".

The work of the Lake Winnipeg Foundation (LWF), dedicated to the protection of Lake Winnipeg's ecosystem since 2006, gives hope to Lake Winnipeg. LWF, in conjunction with the Canadian environmental organisation Wildsight, established the Living Lakes Network Canada in 2010. Their common goal is to protect the Canadian lakes, rivers and wetlands in the long term. To restore Lake Winnipeg, an action plan involving the local population and stakeholders is required. This is a quite challenging task as the watershed spans four Canadian provinces and four US states. Lake Winnipeg's catchment comprises almost one million sq. km and covers the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario as well as the US states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Montana.

Kat Hartwig from Living Lakes Canada emphasises that "Canadians are asking their government to reinstate environmental legislation that formerly ensured a high level of protection of Canadian Lakes and wetlands". In December 2011, Peter Kent, the Canadian Minister of En-

vironment, abandoned the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change. The restoration of Lake Winnipeg will only be possible if governments, industry, environmental organisations and communities work constructively together.



Lake Winnipeg is located in the "Land of 100,000 lakes" in the heart of Canada

Big Jump 2013

Join us!

On June 16th the Big Jump Challenge 2013 (BJC) will take place again. A large number of young people up to 25 years will jump into rivers to draw attention to the importance of the quality of water and the need for its protection. Before organising a Jump, you must inform yourself about the condition and potential dangers of the respective river and the implementation of security measures. The winning team (best realisation) will travel to Berlin. In a special "River Parliament", water protection issues will be discussed. Put your "Jump initiatives" online to publicise our concern and involve as many young people as possible.

Die BJC 2013 is a campaign by GETIDOS, Viva con Agua de Sankt Pauli e.V., Grüne Liga, Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V., Global Nature Fund, CISV Germany and European Rivers Network.

For further information, please visit:
www.bigjumpchallenge.net

Coordination BJC: Sabrina Schulz,
Tel: +49 (0)3834/ 86 46 96
Email: info@bigjumpchallenge.net



European Business & Biodiversity Campaign (EBBC)

Rising interest in biodiversity among businesses

"Biodiversity? It is an issue that has nothing to do with us", was the answer of many companies some years ago when asked about the importance of biodiversity for their business activities. There is growing awareness that the preservation of the natural capital is a core business task – also thanks to the EBBC campaign of the Global Nature Fund.

During the past three years, GNF and six European partners, at more than 100 events, have informed medium-sized enterprises and large companies all over Europe about the value of biological diversity and showcased ways towards sustainable business activities. Up to now, over 30 companies have implemented the biodiversity check in their business – among them global players such as TUI and Daimler. The check offers companies an assessment of their

impact on biodiversity with regard to their business processes and added value chain. It also can help to reduce negative impacts and risks.

The EBBC website is a very popular online portal. Apart from up-to-date information and concrete case studies, newcomers will also find the prize-winning campaign trailer "Business & Biodiversity", which simply explains the initiative.

The project is supported by
EU LIFE Programme

For further information, please visit
www.business-biodiversity.eu



News

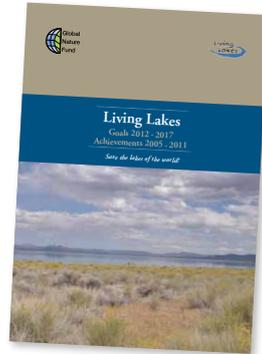
Publications and Online Information

Video "Mangrove restoration in Asia" by Neil Wallis

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Er567AtH7s0

Project video "Forest and climate protection for the private sector"

www.globalnature.org/forest_climate



Booklet "Living Lakes Goals 2012 – 2017" as pdf data

www.globalnature.org/publications

Knowledge pool (Local Authorities, Lakes and Water)

European Environment Agency (EEA), November 2012

European waters – current status and future challenges – a synthesis

www.eea.europa.eu/publications/european-waters-synthesis-2012

Knowledge pool (Legal Protection and Lake Management)

Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) & Ramsar Secretariat, 2013

"The Economics of Biodiversity and Ecosystems for Water and Wetlands"

www.teebweb.org/publications/all-publications

GNF on Facebook

Visit us at facebook and give us your opinion!

www.facebook.com/globalnature.org

facebook

Further information on supported projects

www.globalnature.org/supported-projects

Events

2nd Quarter 2013

22 March - 24 July 2013

Exhibition "Living Lakes Germany"

BUND-Naturschutzzentrum Möggingen,
Mühlbachstr. 2,

78315 Radolfzell-Möggingen, Germany

www.globalnature.org/Ausstellung_NLSD

22 - 26 April 2013

Project Meeting "Learning for
Lakes": Working with Land Managers,
Farming and Fishing

Lake Balaton, Hungary

www.globalnature.org/LearningForLakes

23 - 26 April 2013

Wasser Berlin International –
Trade Fair and Congress for Water
and Waste Water (including the
Photo Exhibition "Jordan River")

Exhibition Grounds Messe Berlin,
Messedamm 22,

14055 Berlin, Germany

www.wasser-berlin.de

www.globalnature.org/Jordan-River

5 May 2013

Presentation of the Project
"Drinking Water for Africa"

in the frame of the TUI Marathon in
Hanover, Germany

www.globalnature.org/drinking-water-africa

10 - 12 June 2013

8th Network Meeting Living Lakes
Germany "Mindelsee – Living Lake
of the Year 2013"

Radolfzell-Möggingen, Germany

Supporters



SIEMENS | Stiftung

ANTON & PETRA EHRMANN • STIFTUNG

Stiftung Ursula Merz



DAIMLER



Imprint



Fritz-Reichle-Ring 4
78315 Radolfzell, Germany

Phone: +49 (0) 7732 9995-0

Fax: +49 (0) 7732 9995-88

V.i.S.d.P.: Udo Gattenlöhner, GNF

E-Mail: info@globalnature.org

www.globalnature.org

Donation Account:

GLS-Gemeinschaftsbank Bochum

IBAN: DE 53 4306 0967 8040 4160 00

BIC: GENODEM1GLS