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Poyang Lake: Living Lakes-Conference, November 2014

Preface For Biodiversity

The International Union for Conservation of Nature has been publishing the Red List of Threatened Species for 15 years. The 2014 Red List continues a sad narrative: practically 74,000 endangered species are listed of which 22,000 are threatened with complete extinction – over 1,000 more species than last year.

Protecting biodiversity is one of the main focuses of the Global Nature Fund and their partners. Under the framework of the EU SWIM Project, Friends of the Earth Middle East, SIWI, and the GNF have reached the end phase of developing a strategic plan for the restoration of the Jordan River. Changing it back from a polluted trickle to a thriving river would make a step forward towards sustainability and peace! Unfortunately, political circumstances have recently taken another bad turn, but we are still continuing with our work in the hope that this plan will be considered and implemented by all of those involved.

Another current focus is the work we are conducting with companies and businesses that want to reduce their negative impacts on biodiversity. This increases the relevancy of our initiative to improve biodiversity criteria and standards in the food industry. We would like to remind you about our international Living Lakes Network as well. Our Chinese partners MRLSD and the Jiangxy Academy of Science are hosting the 14th Living Lakes Conference this year in November. The topics include lakes in densely populated areas, their importance as biodiversity hotspots, and their provisioning of indispensable ecosystem services.



Marion Hammerl
President,
Global Nature Fund



WE!Hub for Kenya: Drinking Water and Energy!

Honge village, with a population of 4,000, lies on Lake Victoria and has been connected to the “solar grid” since spring of this year. After an intensive planning and construction phase, a water-energy Hub – a so-called WE!Hub – has been solemnly inaugurated. Like many other rural areas in Kenya, Honge also has no access to the public energy grid, forcing people to rely on kerosene lamps – a lighting source that is harmful to the environment and human health. The hubs offer people access to environmentally-friendly and cost-efficient solar energy. The hubs also power a water purification system and computer labs where educational opportunities are offered to local communities.

Four additional WE!Hubs are being constructed in rural locations in western Kenya. The concept is based on establishing long-term social enterprises in the region and has been supported under the framework of the “Solar Energy for rural Kenya” project since mid-2011. Batteries and lamps charged by solar energy are rented out to users, not sold. The recharging of these devices can be done at the WE!Hub station for a small fee. This ensures the financial sustainability of the project and that the lamps receive regular maintenance and repair. (kt)

For more information see:
www.globalnature.org/solar-kenya



WE!Hub – Water, Energy, and Education





Environmental education at the Chiemsee: the Eurasian Beaver, Siberian Iris, and Eared Grebe count among its treasures.

Living Lake 2014 Touching Chiemsee

The Chiemsee is the largest lake in Bavaria and because of its special natural features is the "Living Lake 2014". The Chiemsee-Nature Guides are at the forefront of pioneering barrier-free environmental education programs.

As a stronghold for various species of threatened shore birds and waterfowl, the entire Chiemsee is protected under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. Up to 30,000 birds overwinter there, and around 3,000 breed at the lake. The Chiemsee and its surroundings are the habitats for a rich diversity of flora and fauna. The lake hosts nearly 50 orchid species, 58 types of dragonflies, and 75% of all the species of bats found in Germany, including the lesser horseshoe bat and Geoffroy's bat. Ground birds like the common snipe, northern lapwing, and the Eurasian curlew raise their young in orchards around the Chiemsee hinterlands. Beaver lodges can be found on the shores of the lake's inlets, and a large variety of insects buzz and hover over neighboring fields. The blooming fields of Siberian Iris are also impressive when they flower in May and June, count-

ing among the most numerous stocks of their kind in Western Europe.

"With every bite, the beaver hones the edges of its sharp teeth. This is only possible because of iron compounds that harden the front incisors in combination with a soft tooth backside," explains Heinz-Jürgen Pohl on his beaver tour while passing around a beaver pelt to participants of the 10th German Living Lake Network meeting. 25 experts on lakes from all over Germany accepted the GNF and Chiemsee Nature Program's invitation to the "Bavarian Sea" to participate in a knowledge exchange for conservation management. Environmental education was an important focus considering Chiemsee's status as a role model.

To guide the numerous visitors, there is a series of freely accessible nature observatory posts around the lake that include towers, huts, and platforms which offer the best views and information at special points without disturbing nature. On interactive guided tours, park rangers and environmental educators bring various aspects of the lake and its aquatic

ecology to visitors' attention. This year the Chiemsee Nature Program installed info cards in Braille. Tours based on touch bring the Chiemsee and its natural treasures to life for the visually impaired. Excursions for visitors with limited mobility have also been part of the program for years. So on we go! (nb)

For more information see:
www.globalnature.org/NetworkGermany

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Living Lake 2014 – the Chiemsee

Threatened Paradise A Future for Lake Sampaloc!

The "Threatened Lake 2014" suffers from severe pressures. The intense levels of fish farming – much of it illegal – is leading to the "suffocation" of this Philippine lake by algae blooms that lead to fish die-offs, consequently causing the disappearance of rare species like small diving ducks as well. On top of it all, garbage and sewage are being "disposed" of in many areas of the lake. Thanks to the resilient commitment of local GNF partner or-

ganization, Friends of the Seven Lakes Foundation, San Pablo City has finally announced that it will implement an action plan to improve the precarious environmental condition of the lake. New aquaculture regulations are on the top of the agenda.

The GNF would like to contribute with the installation of a constructed wetland or "green filter" to improve the water quality of the lake. (mu)

Help the Sampaloc Lake breath again with your generous donation!

Donation account:
GLS-Gemeinschaftsbank Bochum
Key Word: Lake Sampaloc
IBAN: DE 53 4306 0967 8040 4160 00
BIC: GENODEM1GLS

More information about the project available here:
www.globalnature.org/ThreatenedLake2014

Standing on Their Own Feet A Holistic Approach in South Africa

For years, poachers in South Africa have been on a rampage. The country faces a huge challenge that represents a serious danger of extinction for the black rhino and white rhino, whose numbers have been alarmingly reduced. In 2013 alone, over 1,000 animals were illegally killed for their horns, which are sold at high prices on the black market where they eventually wind up in traditional Chinese medicine.

At the same time, people living in rural regions suffer bitterly from poverty. Because of limited educational opportunities and poor chances of employment, their future prospects are often bleak. The GNF therefore takes it as a given that nature conservation and sustainable development must be combined. Their project "Linking Biodiversity Conservation and Poverty Reduction in South Africa" supports the local Gumbi tribe in northern KwaZulu Natal with the development of the "Somkhanda Game Reserve" – a community-based game reserve that provides sources of income and future prospects for the population while also protecting roughly 16,000 hectares of habitat for the local biodiversity.

For the People....

Together with our local partner, Wildlands Conservation Trust, 26 members of the tribe have been trained as rangers, reserve managers and for organizing the eco-tourism offers. Sustainable tourism concepts and a holistic management plan were designed for the area, helping to maintain the long-term use of the reserve to benefit the local population and the conservation of its biodiversity. Nkosinathi Mbhele is one of the trained Reserve Managers, giving him a secure

employment and regular income. "I could not have asked for a better job," he says. "I am happy to be a part of this amazing initiative that has revitalized our community and given me the chance to protect our country's treasured animals."

As part of the project's work, important infrastructure and equipment was constructed and procured. Buildings were renovated to accommodate guests from all over the world. Tourists have been visiting the park since the fall of 2013. Above all else, they are impressed with the educational program that is one of the main components of the tourist package, going beyond a "normal" safari experience. Over the course of the project, over 1,000 children from schools in surrounding communities have taken trips to the reserve, learning about and becoming sensitized for the importance of biodiversity and conservation.

....and the Animals

Threatened species such as the black and white rhinos receive special protection in the reserve. Newly trained rangers reinforce the team of park rangers and raise the level of security for threatened animals by conducting routine patrols. This summer an additional pack of African wild dogs will be reintroduced. Animals for them to prey upon, such as the Impala, were already introduced for that purpose. These threatened dogs were previously found in large numbers throughout the region, but they have completely disappeared in the areas around the Gumbi tribe. With their reintroduction, the Somkhanda will once again become a home for these wild dogs while supporting the overall African-wide recovery of their populations. (kt)

For more information see:

www.globalnature.org/somkhanda-biodiversity



Nature Up Close Trainees visit South Africa

The Alfred Kärcher GmbH has been a partner and supporter of the GNF for years. In May 2014, they enabled ten trainees to actively participate in conservation projects. Their stay at the Somkhanda Game Reserve was no vacation, however. The volunteers got up early every morning to make their way through the bush with park rangers in order to set up and check camera traps. The population number of leopards could be identified based on the images obtained. After a



The Team

lesson on reading animal tracks, they were also able to help rangers take an inventory of the number of endangered rhinos. The group from Germany was accompanied by 10 South African youths from the Gumbi tribe. The mutual cultural exchange enriched the experience for everyone involved. "The corporate volunteering project I was able to be a part of in South Africa was a very new, cool, and unbelievably valuable experience," one of the program's participants explained. "Through intensive contact with local citizens, I had the chance to see the world through another perspective and reflect on my own way of life. I also found many new incentives for how and where I can support the environment in my professional and personal life." (bs)



The Somkhanda Game Reserve provides prospects for the future of rhinos and local communities

News

Publications and Online Information

„Markets for Natural Capital – Status Quo and Prospects“

The study highlights the pros and cons of payments for ecosystem services and biodiversity offsets and ways for companies and NGOs to make of these instruments.

www.naturalcapitalmarkets.org

www.globalnature.org/biodiversity-markets



“Waldinvestments – Artenreichtum oder Rendite?” (German)

To shed light on the ecological and social consequences of forest investments to investors, the GNF publishes case studies and recommendations for investors in a brochure together with the rainforest foundation, OroVerde.

www.globalnature.org/waldinvestments



“How Business Values Natural Capital – Taking Stock and Looking Forward“

The study provides an overview of how companies begin to analyse the economic value of natural capital.

www.naturkapitalbilanzierung.de

The Global Nature Fund offers its dedicated donors, sponsors, and supporters regular tours of project sites with exclusive insights into the work of local partner organizations:

Donor Travel on the Mosel from 25th to 27th September, 2014

We will visit vineyards participating in the “Viculture and Conservation on the Mosel” project in Nahe and Kaiserstuhl. An agenda and invitation will be sent to our donors in the summer.

A New Look!

This summer the Global Nature Fund’s homepage is getting a new look. Stay tuned and visit us at:

www.globalnature.org/English



GNF at Facebook

Visit us at Facebook and tell us your opinion!

www.facebook.com/globalnature.org



Events/Presentations

July - September 2014

13 July 2014

Big Jump Challenge

Large European youth campaign at German water bodies

www.bigjumpchallenge.net



25 - 31 July 2014

Lake Baikal Conference

Lake Baikal, Russia

www.globalnature.org/events

31 August - 5 September 2014

Stockholm Water Week:

Energy and Water

Stockholm, Sweden

www.worldwaterweek.org

1 - 5 September 2014

15th World-Lake-Conference (WLC15)

Perugia, Umbria, Italy

www.wlc15perugia.com

*Living Lakes-Conference in China
TAKE NOTE OF IT!*

20 - 23 November 2014

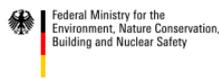
14th Living Lakes-Conference

“Lakes in Densely Populated Areas”

Nanchang, China

www.globalnature.org/14LLC

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