



Newsletter Topics

2nd Quarter 2016

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Living Lake Constance

A distinction to the future

With the distinction of Lake Constance being the "Living Lake of the Year 2016", the partners of the Living Lakes Network Germany have emphasized the ecological relevance of the lake, but also the successful international co-operation between governments, administrations and civil society towards its protection. Clean water and a wide variety of species belong naturally to the Lake Constance with the lake providing drinking water to around 4.5 million people. Its natural and cultural treasures attract millions of tourists every year, developing itself as a consequent to a sustainable regional model thanks to a growing number of initiatives that include, sustainable tourism, organic agriculture and bio-energy.

However, until the nineteen eighties the water of Lake Constance was classified as "heavily polluted" due to its continuous enrichment from nutrients. More than 3.5 Billion Euros were invested in the construction of sewage treatment plants and the implementation of trans-national policies to improved water quality in the catchment area. Today the "Swabian Sea" faces new challenges. Trans-boundary spatial planning, scarcity of land in the densely populated region, remnants of micro plastics and hormones in the water, together with the impacts of an increasing number of visitors are only some of the issues that need solutions.

Preface

Dear Readers,

Lake Constance has been nominated as the "Living Lake of the Year 2016" by GNF and the Living Lakes Network Germany and there are many good reasons for such an award.

Located at the foothills of the Alps, Lake Constance is 63 km long and 14 km wide and it is the third largest lake in Central Europe. International companies locally producing fruit, wine or handicraft and a sound tourism sector help this economically strong region to reach high employment rates. There are good reasons why more than one million people live around the lake and today with about 10,000 people moving to this area each year. In addition, millions of tourists and day-trippers from the metropolitan regions of Stuttgart, Munich and Zurich come to visit and enjoy the lake. Drinking water from the lake is transported to regions 200 km away. Despite all that intense use, hundreds of thousands of migratory birds find their place to rest and overwinter at Lake Constance.

Sadly, the situation of the Lake has not always been as good as it is at the moment and 50 years ago the Lake suffered an environmental disaster due to heavy pollution and input from nutrients.

In an exemplary effort of international cooperation, the bordering countries of Germany, Austria and Switzerland turned off the contaminated water and restored the lake. Public authorities from municipalities, associations, research institutions and engaged citizens have significantly contributed to this feat.

Impacts of the global climate change are also perceived in and around Lake Constance and will not remain without consequences in the future to water quality and its use. The international Lake Constance Foundation is one of the active partners within national Living Lakes

The Lake Constance region was one of the first regions engaged in the environmental movement in Central Europe. With the manifest of the "Green Charter of the Island of Mainau" in 1961, the region started to give signals that it will internationally resonate on the Agenda 21 from Rio de Janeiro.

The Lake Constance project, initiated by the Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V. (Environmental Action Germany), was the starting point in the establishment of the international Living Lakes Network, which now has several national networks. The Living Lakes Germany are one of these members and they attended the "Lake Constance – Living Lake of the Year" event, held in Friedrichshafen during April 2016.

Supporters of these networks are civil society institutions such as the Lake Constance Foundation. Its strength lies in the cooperation with different partners and the gift of making clear to people what sustainable development is and the opportunities that it can offer to all of us.

T. Stolle

Dr. Tillmann Stolle



Director of the Office for the Environment and Nature Conservation of the City Friedrichshafen at Lake Constance, Germany and member of the Advisory Board of Global Nature Fund

Network Germany and it has been working for many years on different projects and initiatives for a sustainable development at Lake Constance. (AW)

www.globalnature.org/LebendigerSee2016



The community at Nimbo village in front of a pump.



The blue pump in Benomba...



... calms the thirst of the people.

A life without flowing water

Pain caused by the lack of water is effecting many communities on a daily basis

The lack of drinking water dramatically limits the daily routine of many people in the Ivory Coast, especially young girls and women, as they are the ones responsible for collecting drinking water. They walk long distances to collect water from rivers and other water bodies that very often contaminated. To kill at least part of the bacteria and the pathogens, the water is heated up in domestic cooking stoves. "In rural areas there is usually either a water supply or a power grid. In some villages, ground-water pumps have been broken for years, this is due to the lack of financial and material resources, but also due to a lack of knowledge in maintenance of the pumps" stated Charles Diamonde, founder of the Ivorian organization ADER (Action pour le Developpement et l'Encadrement Rural).

With GNF's support, six villages in the department of Biankouma have now access to clean water since March 2016. Charles Diamonde purchased parts and

the material needed to repair the pumps, thanks to the financial support from Sika AG, Ursula Merz Foundation, Hannover 96 and the umbrella organization IG Rote Kurve – 96 Supporters Club.

Since 2009, the football fans of the Bundesliga have been eagerly making donations for the drinking water projects that GNF implements with partners in Africa. Since then, more than 30,000 people have been helped. In the new six project villages 3,800 inhabitants are now provided with fresh groundwater. Opening times of the water kiosks have been established and the pumps are surrounded by a fence to protect them from animals. The persons responsible for the keys for the pumps were selected by the inhabitants. Part of the fee paid to the water committee from every village will be invested in the long term sustainability of the pumps – primarily its maintenance and repair.

Jeane from Benomba is very happy and

comments: "Since my village now has groundwater, women do not need to walk long distances every day to the river and the water is much better quality". The pump in Benomba was out of service for ten years and the community of Vakso were without a working pump for nine years, both pumps are now working again. Daily activities in the villages, especially agriculture, can now be carried out, without the worry of water being scarce. Coffee and cocoa beans, bananas and vegetables are the main crops in those villages, the Village Chief Diabate, pointed out gratefully: "All people from my village say many thanks to all supporters." (AW)

www.globalnature.org/trinkbecher



Energy transition – impossible without citizens

Against the background of a constantly growing world population and rising living standards, the energy consumption of humanity is increasing incessantly. The limitation of fossil fuels and the massive negative impacts of fossil energy based systems on nature, environment and climate, stress that a consistent and rapid development of renewable energy systems is essential. In Germany, the so-called energy transition has been driven and promoted "bottom up" by citizens from the beginning. Hence, the success of the renewable energies story depends on citizens' engagement. In recent years, the role of the federal government has lost importance and alleged reforms of

the Electricity Feed Law (EEG) seem more likely to hinder a change.

So, how can everyone contribute to an energy transition? This question is the main focus of a project being implemented since autumn 2015 by a consortium of six European partners under the title "Citizens for Energy Transition – C4ET". The objectives of the inter-disciplinary teams from France, Belgium, Italy, Croatia, Hungary and Germany are to identify and develop effective structures, frameworks and instruments for an efficient civic involvement. The project aims at raising awareness on the fact that energy transition is not only an issue concerning



Solar panel systems in private houses are now part of the city landscape.

"rich citizens" or industrialized countries, but that everyone can and should be involved even through small measures and efforts. The project is funded under the EU Erasmus program. (UG, JPS)



Will African Elephants and Rhinos survive extinction?

Cross-border anti-poaching projects increase the survival rates of those species

Katharina Trump, coordinator of GNF's anti-poaching projects, visited the border region of Kenya and Tanzania in the beginning of 2016 where she assessed together with the local project partners the current situation of elephants poaching. "The number of poaching incidents is still very high, between 2009 and 2014, Tanzania lost more than 60 % of their elephants", said Katarina Trump, "this situation is alarming".

Together with the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), GNF has implemented a wildlife conservation project to work in close collaboration with the municipalities of the border region of Tanzania and Kenya.

"It is particularly important to strengthen the cooperation across the international border", stated Noah Sitati from AWF. In the framework of the project patrols from Tanzania and Kenya have been organised to fight against poaching. Meals, equipment, uniforms and training required during those missions have been financed through the project. The reduction of conflicts between elephants and the local population is another central objective of the project. "Elephants can destroy entire crops and thereby the livelihoods from many people. The resolution to this conflict is essential for the protection of the animals in the region – not only the retaliatory measures but also to support the population to back the fight against poaching" said Katharina. In order to

achieve this crucial objective, farmers are being trained in the implementation of effective protective measures.

Rhinos still living at risk

After her stay in Tanzania and Kenya, Katharina went on to visit South Africa where more than 80 % of the African White and Black Rhinos, around 25,000 animals live.

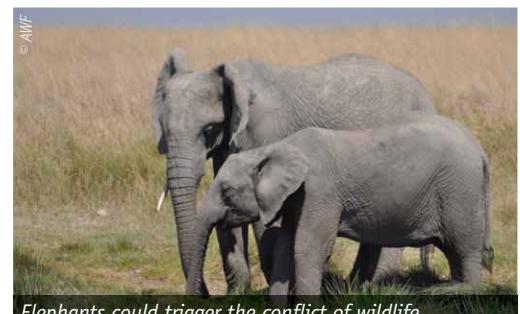
Katharina went onto say that "In 2015 the poaching figures felt slightly, at least in South Africa, but current figures, with more than 1,000 animals killed per year, are unacceptable".

Rhinos are killed because their horn is believed to have medicinal properties, which once pulverised, are sold in Asia as traditional remedies reaching prices higher than ivory or gold.

International armed gangs smuggle the horns across the border to Mozambique and from there to Asia. For several years, GNF together with its partner Wildlands Conservation Trust (WCT) have implemented anti-poaching projects in the Kwa-Zulu Natal province. The aim is to improve the protection measures at the borders of reserves and inside the countries in close cooperation with Mozambique.

Other main activities are daily monitoring of the rhinos and training the rangers to use weapons to assist with their

personal protection as well as protecting the rhinos. The poachers are organised in criminal syndicates and do not hesitate in using extreme force by shooting the rhino but they will also fire upon the people, reason enough to put strong emphasis on a continued training for the rangers' security. The anti-poaching projects are being funded by the GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB). (KT)



Elephants could trigger the conflict of wildlife.



Participants of a transboundary workshop.

New guidebook: Ornamental plants and biodiversity

How can companies get involved with biodiversity?

The project "Enterprises and Biodiversity – Essentials for target-group-specific Information Brokering and Networking" gives answers to the above question. Together with the initiative "Biodiversity in Good Company", GNF assesses companies on biodiversity and reinforces the importance of this topic for the economy. Within a campaign called "Basic knowledge on companies and biodiversity – areas of implementation & practical tips", five inter-sectoral information modules have been published in German.

The five modules describe different scenarios on how to engage employees and staff in the protection of nature and how

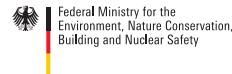
responsible companies can improve communication on biodiversity. Biodiversity-friendly management of the supply chain and the ecological improvement of companies' premises are two approaches to acknowledge the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services as a priority topic.

In the framework of this project companies also receive sector-specific information and assistance. Together with the "Handelsverband Heimwerken, Bauen und Garten e.V.", GNF has recently published a German brochure for retailers in the construction and gardening sectors that are concerned about the biodiversity

on ornamental plants and gardens. The retailers' guidebook offers alternatives for synthetic pesticides and tips on how to promote biodiversity in domestic gardens as well as advise on ecological and sustainability labels and how to avoid using invasive plants. (SH, SG)

www.globalnature.org/Information-Brokering

leben.natur.vielfalt



Leave personal traces

Design now the future with your will

If you are close to nature and care about the environment – then you have the same goals as we do. By leaving a legacy to GNF you will be helping nature and a healthy environment for future generations, we have. Many individual projects designed to help us keep our world a blue/green living planet.

Thank you for supporting us and helping future generations with your generosity.

www.globalnature.org/Vermächtnis



IUCN World Conservation Congress

GNF an active member

Every four years the IUCN World Conservation Congress brings together thousands of leaders and decision-makers from government, civil society, indigenous peoples, business, and academia, with the goal of conserving the environment and harnessing the solutions that nature offers to global challenges. In the framework on this worldwide relevant congress held in Hawai'i from 1 - 10 September 2016 with the motto "Planet at

the crossroads", Global Nature Fund as member of IUCN since 2014 will bring two important topics to the table: ecosystem service valuation and the impacts of voluntary certification standards and labels on biodiversity.



News

Publications and Online Information

Brochure „Lakes with all senses“ – Guidelines for a nature experience for visually impaired people (June 2016)
Free download (German):

www.globalnature.org/Naturerleben-fuer-Blinde

„Lions for Sale – Bred for the Bullet“

Flyers and posters for the campaign free to download:
www.globalnature.org/Lions-for-Sale



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SEKISUI



Events

Summer 2016

1 - 10 September 2016

IUCN World Conservation Congress:

„Planet at the crossroads“

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org

www.globalnature.org/

IUCN-Congress-2016

3 September 2016,

14:30 - 16:30 pm

Water Ecosystem Conservation versus Ecosystem Service Valuation

Knowledge Café, Room 311-10

4 September 2016,

8:30 - 10:30 pm

Biodiversity in Voluntary Certification Standards and Labels (food, tourism, forestry, fisheries, mining): Impacts on biodiversity and livelihoods

Workshop, Room 317B

Finca La Trapa in Mallorca

International funding raising for an Environmental Centre

www.globalnature.org/La-Trapa



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