

Newsletter Topics

3rd Quarter 2016

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Preface

Dear Readers,

Every four years a congress is held by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). In September 2016, about 7,000 delegates from more than 170 countries – including representatives of governments, companies and science as well as NGOs and indigenous peoples – met in Hawaii. This is the biggest event addressing environmental and nature conservation worldwide. With the mandate of GNF being a member of IUCN, I had the possibility to take part as one of the few German delegates. The conference topic “Planet at the Crossroads” picks up the current discussion about planetary boundaries and the resulting necessity to take action quickly to sustain the living conditions for future generations.

The first part of the congress, the forum, is an impressive pool of knowledge. In more than 600 sessions almost every topic regarding environment, nature and sustainability was touched. A great marketplace to exchange experiences, extend networks and – hopefully – have a positive impact on the future. During the second part of the congress, the general meeting, the more than 1,300 members of IUCN came together to make decisions about the most important and urgent topics of mankind and elaborate a multitude of demands to political decision makers.

It has to be questioned critically if all this is noticed by the target group and the general public. One of the lots of prominent speakers – amongst them the Prince of Wales and Dr. Jane Goodall – labelled the congress as the probably most important conference of mankind, which is known by no one. My impression confirms this. Some of the speakers mentioned that we cannot expect drastic changes heading for sustainable conditions to create an eco-social market economy neither from politics nor the private sector. This might be the truth, but also science – which in my opinion already has enough information regarding the consequences of our destructive behaviour – until now did not succeed in being heard.

An evidence for that is the probably most important publication of modern times, which is known by no one – to go on with this ductus. In November 1992, about 1,700 of the world’s most important scientists including the majority of all living Nobel laureates presented this paper coordinated by Henry Kendall. The publication “World Scientist’s Warning to Humanity” explains that mankind is heading for confrontation, because we harm nature and ecosystems and their essential services in a massive and irreparable manner. The scientists are not presenting apocalyptic scenarios, but analyse the

environmental problems regarding atmosphere, drinking-water reserves, oceans, soils, forests, biodiversity and population growth and show five fields of action to face these problems efficiently. Just the perception and therefore the effect is still missing.

We can still hope that increasing civil power, for example via environmental associations, manage to create enough pressure to catalyse changes in policy, economy and society instead of just acting as ambassadors and translators for the scientific knowledge to be understood by politics and economy. The most challenging and urgent problems – climate change and the loss of biodiversity – are not going to be reached without a change of our values. In my opinion this means that we have to leave or re-define our false idea of never-ending economic growth and prosperity. As this deals – as so often – with a lot of money and personal interests, this goal cannot be reached without overcoming a big opposition. Here is the central challenge for us as a society.



Udo Gattenlöhner
Executive Director
Global Nature Fund



Protection of species is at the top of the agenda

Broad measures have been decided at conference of CITES

Environmental minister Barbara Hendricks takes a positive stock of the CITES conference that was held in Johannesburg (South Africa) from 24th of September until 5th of October. An important boost for projects of the Global Nature Fund emerged: stricter conditions and trade bans shall protect better critically endangered species like elephants or rhinos in the future. Especially Germany was able to maintain the trade embargo on ivory and rhino horn. The increasing trade with lion bones and the export of hunting trophies also will be dammed. Additionally, countries with lion populations have committed themselves to develop a strategy for better protection. Before the conference started, Mrs. Hendricks was visiting GNF projects in Kenya and South Africa, which implement measures to combat poaching in cooperation with 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). Her travels first lead her to Somkhanda Game Reserve in the northern part of KwaZulu-Natal province, where the Global Nature Fund and its South African partner organization Wildlands Conservation Trust (WCT) are carrying out projects in favour of wildlife and especially rhino protection. Hendricks next visit to a region near Kenyan Amboseli National Park also was focussing on combat poaching. In this region, the GNF is cooperating with the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF). Within the projects, local communities are an important partner regarding environmental and species conservation. On the one hand, Somkhanda Game Reserve population is benefitting due to the generation of alternative income sources like eco-tourism, and on the other hand, a trustful cooperation between rangers and local communities is strengthened. This underlines the importance of rhino protection and leads to the support of communities.

The results and new guidelines elabo-



Mrs. Hendricks having a talk with inhabitants of a Kenyan national park.



The visit of the Amboseli National Park was realized with the well-knowing guidance of the rangers.

rated at the CITES conference together with the support of governments, NGOs and communities are a positive signal to sustain populations of endangered and rare species and motivate us to continue fighting against poaching. (AW)

www.globalnature.org/cites-2016

Well water can be drunken without doubts

First decentral treatment plant in Colombia became operational

In the community of San Miguel de Sema, Global Nature Fund and Fundación Humedales are well known for a lot of years now. In summer 2013, the first mutual project has been implemented, a green filter for sewage cleaning. Since then the plant not only has had a lot of visitors and has been the model for more, yet

established green filters, but also has been honoured with an environmental prize in the summer.

Due to this good experience, a second project has been planned and executed in the community: the installation of a multi-stage plant for water treatment. The more or less 500 inhabitants of the community – half of them being kids – are using ground water from a well that has been contaminated with a lot of iron compounds and several pathogens, especially E. coli, which lead to ongoing diseases.

Regarding this background, a filtration plant has been installed that is cleaning the well water through a multi-stage electrochemical process that does not need any chemicals. The multi-stage filtration plant is characterized by easy

maintenance, low electricity consumption and an excellent cleaning performance. Felipe Valderrama of Fundación Humedales was again coordinating the implementation of the project in the village and was briefed in detail by Ralph Eckart, project manager of the plant producer Arisu, regarding the functions, processes and maintenance of the plant. With his mobile phone, Valderrama can check and control the consumption of electricity, the throughput and the ultraviolet lamp. Spare parts and materials such as activated carbon are on-site and can be changed if required.

This pilot project has been supported by Wilo-Foundation and shall pave the way for a bigger water project in Colombia that yet has been requested at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The need for decentral and easy solutions to provide enough clean drinking-water in rural Colombia remains high. (UG)

www.globalnature.org/drinking-water-colombia



Team work is necessary!



Inhabitants and the project team in front of the drinking water plant.

wilo
foundation

Stiftung Ursula Merz



Discussions and training are necessary ...



... to make such pictures disappear ...



... and a sustainable holiday paradise emerges.

Tourism – a curse or a blessing?

Sustainable tourism can protect biodiversity in the Caribbean!

Central American countries draw in tourists with their dreamlike beaches and grandiose nature. More plants and animals are at home here than anywhere else in the world. Deforestation, gold mining, and poaching have already destroyed many species. The growing tourist industry and intensive agriculture have hurt other parts of this paradise.

Take the Opportunity!

According to the goals of the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), we advise companies and motivate them to take measures to protect biodiversity. Tourist advisors and corporate leadership are trained, giving them the knowledge to implement actions and spread conservation practices throughout their own operations. Hotels, travel agen-

cies, providers of recreational activities, and the food industry are our target groups.

Our Project helps by:

- Working with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to evaluate the negative impacts from resorts and recreational activities in the Dominican Republic and Honduras.
- Training tourism experts through biodiversity seminars and guiding them in advising hotel resorts and providers of recreational activities on activities they can take to better protect coastal and marine biodiversity.
- Providing large and small companies biodiversity checks and guides combined with a training program to assist

the tourist sector in reducing their negative impacts and motivate them to participate in biodiversity projects.

- Expanding this concept to the food industry in the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, and Panama. Hotels and restaurants are motivated to purchase products from environmentally friendly farm operations. Farmers are encouraged to create and support biodiversity corridors. (MU)

www.globalnature.org/Caribbean-Biodiversity

Please support our project!

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Advisory Board Permaculture

GNF is a member!

This year, the Global Nature Fund started to participate in the real, - Advisory Board Permaculture. Since 2015, the company is extending its range of permacultural fruits and vegetables. The aim of the advisory board is to push the topic within the trade system and therefore support an ecological, sustainable and environmental-friendly agriculture in general. Permaculture – never heard about it? No wonder – the concept is not very common, even though it was already designed in the 1970s as an alternative to industrial agriculture. Created by the terms “Permanent Agriculture”, permaculture is setting up a form of ecological agriculture that aims to create and sustain cycles that are close to natural ones and therefore work in the long-term. In the permacultural concept, healthy soils and humus formation are key principles. To realize them, organic fertilizers and natural microorganism in the soil are

being supported as well as beneficial animals like insects.

“In the permacultural production cycle we often use even less plant treatments than allowed and applied in ecological agriculture. For that reason, the skin of the fruit or vegetable can sometimes have marks or different colours. The strength of these products can be found inside: they are full of minerals and vitamins and through their form of being produced they increase soil fertility and biodiversity”, explains the cultivation advisor Marion Buley.

Raphael Kennerknecht, manager of lehm natur GmbH, completes: “Permaculture provides products like nature makes them. We want to create a connection between the nature and consumers and thus enclose the consumer to quality and taste of nature-grown products.” Additionally, original or ancient varieties are commonly used within permacul-



Natural and sustainable cycles are important!

ture. Therefore, optically they cannot be treated as “top goods”. Often these products are refused by the traders because they have optical defects or small eating traces. Farmers estimate that a third of the products has to be sorted out and is not even delivered to the traders, which is economically almost not bearable for them. An aim of the advisory board is to find solutions to this problem. (UG)

www.globalnature.org/permaculture-advisory-board

■ Impressions



Impressions of the IUCN World Conservation Congress: "Planet at the crossroads"

■ GNF-Memberships

EU-Russia Civil Society Forum

The EU-Russia Civil Society Forum is a network of non-governmental organizations of different work focuses from Russia and the European Union. Due to the various projects GNF implemented together with their partners GRAN and FIRN at Lake Baikal, we are deeply interested in the exchange and strengthened cooperation between civil organizations.

Further information under: www.eu-russia-csf.org

Fair Rubber e.V.

Global Nature Fund (GNF) promotes ecological and fair farming practises all over the world. Furthermore, GNF supports the private sector in establishing business models and sourcing policies which contribute to the sustainable use of resources – including rubber. Hence, in 2016 Global Nature Fund became a member of the Fair Rubber Association.

Further information: www.fairrubber.org



■ Events

December 2016

27 November - 4 December 2016

1st Living Lakes Sustainability Leadership Journey

Sustainability from the Inside Out

St Lucia, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

www.globalnature.org/en/home/events

12 December 2016, 11:00 – 16:00

Workshop: EMAS and Biodiversity – How to address biodiversity protection through environmental management systems

European Commission, DG Environment, Avenue de Beaulieu 5, 1049 Brussels, Belgium

www.globalnature.org/en/home/events

GNF at 

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