



Annual Report



2015/2016



„Only if we understand, can we care.
Only if we care, we will help.
Only if we help, we shall be saved.“

Jane Goodall, British behavioral scientist, born 1934



Imprint

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Preface

Dear readers, dear friends, supporters, and donors,

Volkswagen has given us an unfortunate example of how a company can bring discredit to their entire sustainability strategy and shock their very own sustainability team with their imprudence. Volkswagen is one of the companies who has been engaged in biodiversity conservation--protecting wolfs as just one example. Any positive impact they may have had, however, was overshadowed by the emissions scandal as climate change is among the leading causes of biodiversity loss on our planet.

In light of the shocking pictures out of Syria and other war-torn regions, it has become clear that humanitarian aid must have absolute priority. Besides the conflicts, one of the main causes for people fleeing their countries has been that they can no longer find the means to properly sustain their livelihoods anymore. Deforestation and the destruction of lakes and wetlands are just two of many negative impacts that lead to humanitarian problems such as famine and health epidemics. Social problems and an influx of refugees are in-

For the sake of better legibility, gender-specific double noses were generally dispensed with.



separable from environmental destruction. Environmental protection and conservation therefore help improve the situation for people in conflict zones. Green filters or constructed wetlands are just one example of a simple solution to hygienic problems associated with sewage runoff near huge refugee camps.

Climate change is a major driver behind the refugee crisis. More than 50 % of the impact caused to the climate by the German economy is suffered

by countries outside of Europe. That means that our constantly growing demand for resources is partially responsible for the dramatic loss of biodiversity and the destruction of ecosystems in developing and less-developed countries. Companies that honestly try to reduce their impacts contribute to improving the conditions for refugees and sustaining our livelihoods.

With best wishes,



Marion Hammerl
President



Udo Gattenlöhner
Executive Director

Please visit our website to
learn more about our many
diverse projects:

www.globalnature.org



Living Lakes and Water

Lakes have always had a special meaning for people. The Living Lakes Network places lakes and wetlands in the center of their conservation and protection goals. Modern media and communications technology continues to make the cooperation between international partners easier while the growing participation of new organizations provides an ever increasing knowledge-base. However, lake conservation organizations are constantly being presented with new challenges for which we are all looking for fitting and affordable solutions.



Living Lakes

GNF founded the Living Lakes Network in 1998 to protect the habitats and water resources of lakes and wetlands. Today, GNF plans and implements sustainable environmental and nature protection projects together with over 100 partner organizations worldwide. Living Lakes offers its members a forum for dialog, a place to collaborate on project implementation, and to exchange experiences, knowledge and environmental technologies.

The network's goals are:

- › Biodiversity protection and the conservation of lakes, wetlands, and other aquatic ecosystems.
- › Restoration of altered and threatened wetlands and lake ecosystems.
- › Amelioration of the quality of life of the lake's riparian populations through participatory projects.
- › The sustainable use and development of these ecosystems through farming, fishing, tourism, housing developments, and energy/water usage.
- › Promotion of the use of applied sciences and technologies for the protection of these ecosystems.
- › Support for education programs and collaborations with the local population and other relevant groups with the goal of protecting the biodiversity of these ecosystems.

- › The Living Lakes partnership has grown since its foundation in 1998 from four lakes to its current number of 105 partner lakes. As part of project conceptualization, GNF pays special attention to designing measures that are transferable and replicable. As a result, the projects are geographically flexible and can be implemented across a broad spectrum and under various circumstances.

Threatened Lake of the Year 2015

Mongolia is among the most sparsely populated countries in the world. A seemingly endless grassland steppe characterizes the landscape in the north. Mongolia may have been an undiscovered destination in the past, but new recreational opportunities like hiking, horseback riding, cycling, boating, and fishing are attracting ever more tourists to this untouched and picturesque nature-scape. A 500% increase in tourism over the last ten years has been the result. This development is a casebook example of the "two sides to every coin" saying. On one side, tourism offers an interesting source of income for inhabitants of the surrounding region. On the other side, neither the infrastructure nor the people around Lake Hovsgol National Park are prepared for the increase in tourists and their corresponding impacts, such as sewage and waste. Moreover, a study has indicated that despite strict conservation laws in the protected regions, there are still numerous offenses being perpetrated by illegal fishing and logging.



We have been working with the Mongol Ecology Center (MEC) on a project to strengthen the park management system and implement sustainable tourism in Hovsgol National Park since August 2012 to mid-2015. Within the framework of this EU funded project, park rangers have been trained, visitor centers have been constructed, campsite managers have received instruction, and a comprehensive development plan for the Hovsgol Park has been created. To protect the “Mongolian Pearl” and its unique natural and cultural landscape, we suggest measures that will guarantee the balance between people and nature. To give emphasis to this situation’s urgency, the GNF declared Lake Hovsgol “Threatened Lake of the Year 2015” on World Wetlands Day (February 2, 2015). More information can be found at: www.globalnature.org/ThreatenedLake2015.



Living Lake of the Year 2015

Lake Schwerin, Germany’s fourth largest lake, has gained international prominence for its biological diversity. Since 2014, the lake has to a very large extent regained its original water quality. With its cities, towns, natural riparian zones, responsible water recreational activities, and low-impact tourism, the lake has fulfilled the high standards of a European bird sanctuary. On the occasion of World Water Day (March 22, 2015), the GNF together with its German Living Lakes partners declared Lake Schwerin “Living Lake of the Year 2015.”

The natural surroundings around Lake Schwerin are dominated by beech forests with woodruff and melick grass, as well as alder and ash forests. The lake also serves as one of the most important brooding grounds for migratory birds in northern Germany. An extensive line of reeds along the lake’s shores offers plentiful brooding ground for various species such as the great crested grebe, Eurasian coot, and the Eurasian reed warbler. There are also up to five breeding pairs of white-tailed sea eagles and two breeding pairs of ospreys in the region that use the lake as their fishing ground. There are even fresh water otters found in the city.

The improvement of Lake Schwerin’s water quality is a big success for all the responsible stakeholders involved. Just a quarter century after the German reunification, nutrient levels have been

⚡ On one hand, the ever developing tourist industry offers the residents of this idyllic natural area around the Lake Hovsgol region in Mongolia an interesting source of income. On the other hand, an increasing number of visitors has caused a number of negative impacts for the environment. The GNF has therefore declared Lake Hovsgol as Threatened Lake of the Year 2015. Together with the Mongol Ecology Center, the GNF is calling for the implementation of sustainable measures to restore the balance between people and nature.

⚡ Educating local people about conservation goes hand-in-hand with funding sustainable tourism with our local partners as both play an important role in protecting the unique natural habitats around Lake Hovsgol in Mongolia.

» In September, the members of the Network Living Lakes Germany met at the Living Lake of the Year 2015. Bernd Nottebaum, department head for construction, economy, and regulatory affairs for the county in Schwerin illustrated the concepts of urban development and conservation around Lake Schwerin while speaking at a network gathering in Retzendorf.



reduced to a tenth of what they were. The journey to this achievement was long and hard. Up until the turnaround, all wastewater was still diverted to the lake until 1991 when a sewage treatment facility was constructed to purify the water.

Lake Schwerin is also an important tourist destination, attracting a high level of locals seeking recreational activities. There are diverse plans for the development of tourism that call for an expansion of infrastructure for recreational water activities and the construction of new suburban zones along the lake's shores. Challenges therefore constantly arise because of conflicting interests among the various stakeholders and interest groups involved. Our local partners, the Nature Conservation Center Zippendorf and the local group of Friends of the Earth Germany in Schwerin have been showing locals and tourists for years what makes this Living Lake so special. With informational campaigns, action days, and nature guides, our partners have been encouraging the appreciation of the lake through their volunteer service.



» Training of volunteers on how to use CABIN – Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network, a protocol to assess the health of freshwater ecosystems in Canada.



National and Multinational Networks

Living Lakes Canada

The Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network, called CABIN, is an aquatic biomonitoring program that allows to assess the health of fresh water ecosystems in Canada. In the framework of the Network Living Lakes Canada a number of courses were organized to train volunteers how to use the CABIN monitoring tool and to collect consistent and comparable data on the fresh water quality and aquatic ecosystem condition. This year the Flathead River watershed, the Windermere Creek and the Upper Athabasca Watershed have been monitored among others. Moreover, the Kootenay Lake Wetland Project, a collaborative initiative to improve water quality by treating urban runoff naturally in wetlands, has been launched. Another new project is the Brilliant Headpond Stewardship Initiative to empower local residents to take a bigger role in managing the headpond for ecological and cultural values. Further activities in 2015 were the Salmon Enhancement Workshop, the mapping of part of the shoreline of Lake Koo-canusa and Lake Edwards with the East Kootenay Integrated Lake Management Partnership. But the Living Lakes Canada Network also had a reason to celebrate. In March 2015 a member of Wildsight's Living Lakes Canada water team was honored as one of WWF Canada's Water Heroes and named a finalist for Water Canada's Water's Next Award.

Further information is available on the website www.livinglakes.ca.

Network Living Lakes Germany

There is a lot going on at Germany's lakes. Many water bodies are currently receiving management plans in accordance with the EU Habitats Direc-



tive. An approach that strikes a balance between the protection of the waters and recreational use (e.g. ski boating and fishing) is self-committing. Within the Network Living Lakes Germany, there was controversial discussion if such an agreement was really the best approach. Nature and water conservation remain social duties and are therefore justifiable sovereign responsibilities, especially when the water body is publicly owned. Conservationists therefore do not have special interests that need to be balanced with other interests. The EU Habitats Directive was first introduced with much hope from nature conservationists in 1992. However, it has not been until today, a good 20 years later, that these regulations are slowly being implemented. Self-commitments are already components of the management plans at the Lakes Schwerin and Plau. We recommend capping the project run-time of these commitments in order to analyze and optimize this policy instrument at the end of a designated period.

Successful on-site project work is especially important now that the EU is considering the repeal or modification of the EU Habitats Directive. In a Europe-wide survey of nature conservationists that we helped conduct, the majority of

those questioned supported maintaining the EU Habitats Directive in its present state. The fact that national governments dragged their feet in implementing the policy is no indication that the directive will not function. Currently, the EU Habitats Directive is the best we have in Europe, and we continue to support its implementation to protect our natural livelihoods.

Conservation organizations set their hopes on new fertilizer requirements. The application of liquid manure on fields is ultimately an extensive form of eliminating waste from concentrated animal feeding operations. This waste impacts ground water and surface waters of many lakes. Along with other environmental organizations, the Living Lakes Network Germany supports a policy of requiring a minimal riparian buffer zone of ten meters width and a significant reduction of fertilizer application on the fields. Nitrogen levels and the preference for solid waste are also part of the directive.

Conservation organizations throughout Europe spoke out for maintaining the EU Habitats Directive. At Lake Schwerin, self-committing requirements are also part of the management plans.

In January 2016, the Network Living Lakes Germany received an award in the context of The United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020.



**Ausgezeichnetes Projekt
UN-Dekade Biologische Vielfalt
2016**

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die UN-Dekade

Members of the Living Lakes Network

NORTH AMERICA

- 1 Columbia River Wetlands; **Canada**
- 2 Lake Winnipeg; **Canada**
- 3 Athabasca River; **Canada** *
- 4 Huron Lake; **Canada** *
- 5 Skeena River; **Canada** *
- 6 Mono Lake; **USA**
- 7 Lake Chapala; **Mexico**
- 8 Lake Atitlán; **Guatemala**
- 9 Lake Amatitlán; **Guatemala**

SOUTH AMERICA

- 10 Laguna de Fúquene; **Colombia**
- 11 Lake Tota; **Colombia**
- 12 Lake Titicaca; **Peru, Bolivia**
- 13 Pantanal Wetlands; **Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay**
- 14 Lagunita Komplex; **Paraguay**
- 15 Laguna de Rocha; **Uruguay**
- 16 Mar Chiquita; **Argentina**
- 17 Río Gallegos; **Argentina**

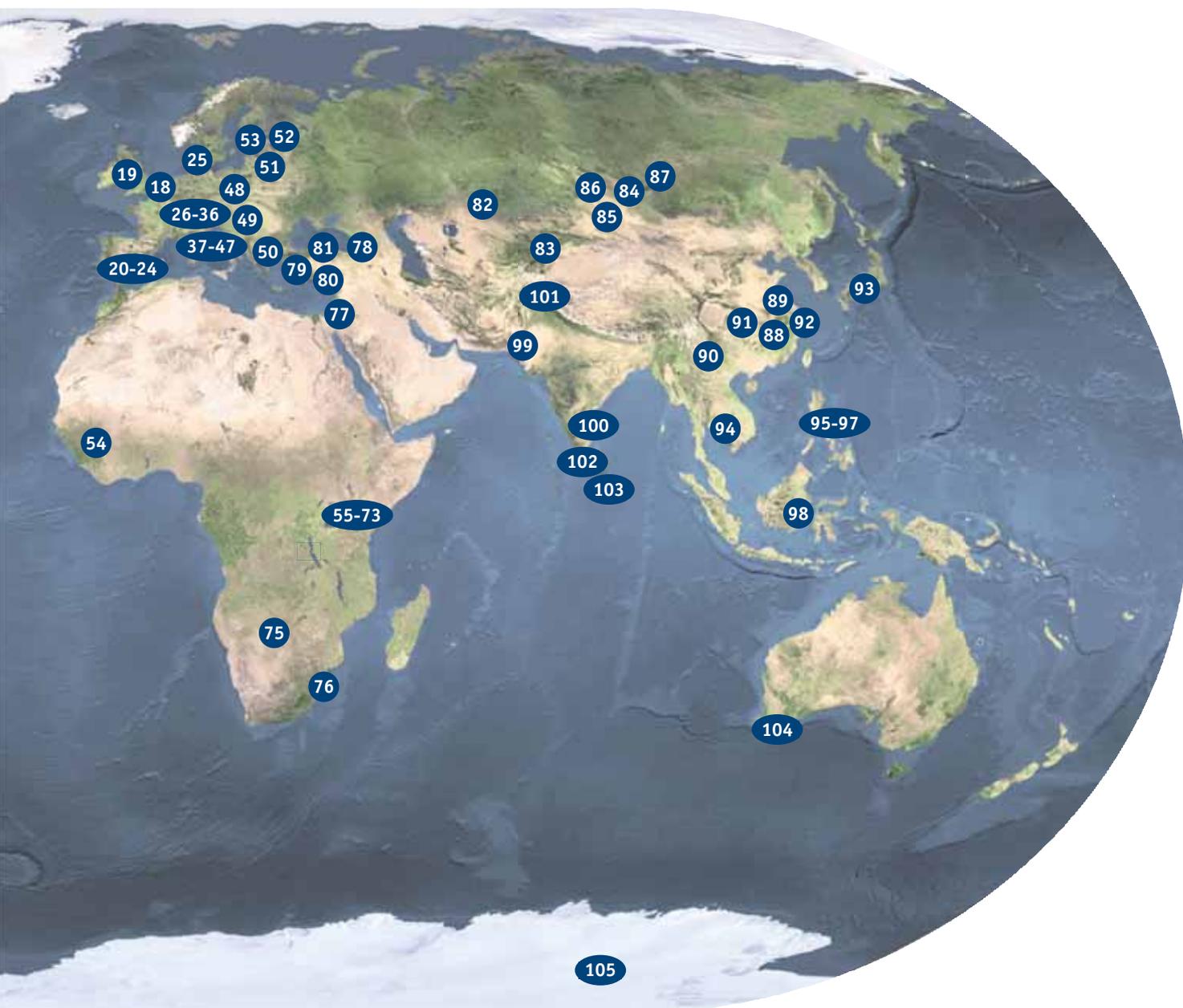
EUROPE

- 18 Norfolk & Suffolk Broads; **Great Britain**
- 19 Lake District; **Great Britain**
- 20 La Nava; **Spain**
- 21 Lake Albufera; **Spain**
- 22 Delta de Llobregat; **Spain**
- 23 La Mancha Wetlands; **Spain**
- 24 Salobrar de Campos Wetlands; **Majorca, Spain**
- 25 Kolindsund Wetlands; **Denmark**
- 26 Lake Constance; **Germany, Switzerland, Austria**
- 27 Chiemsee; **Germany** *
- 28 Lake Dümmer; **Germany** *
- 29 Lake Plön; **Germany** *
- 30 Lusatian Lakeland; **Germany** *
- 31 Mindelsee; **Germany** *
- 32 Upper Swabian Lakes; **Germany** *
- 33 Lake of Plau; **Germany** *
- 34 Lake Schwerin; **Germany** *
- 35 Lake Stechlin; **Germany** *
- 36 Lake Steinhude; **Germany** *
- 37 Lake Trasimeno; **Italy**
- 38 Lake Albaner; **Italy** *
- 39 Lake Bolsena; **Italy** *
- 40 Lake Bracciano; **Italy** *
- 41 Colfiorito Wetland and Park; **Italy** *
- 42 Lake Garda; **Italy** *
- 43 Lago Maggiore; **Italy** *
- 44 Lake Nemi; **Italy** *
- 45 Lake Orta; **Italy** *
- 46 Lake Piediluco; **Italy** *
- 47 Lake Vico; **Italy** *
- 48 Milicz Ponds; **Poland**
- 49 Lake Balaton; **Hungary**
- 50 Nestos Lakes and Lagoons; **Greece**
- 51 Labanoras Regional Park; **Lithuania**
- 52 Lake Peipsi; **Estonia, Russia**
- 53 Lake Võrtsjärv; **Estonia**



AFRIKA

- | | |
|---|--|
| 54 Lake Sonfon; Sierra Leone | 70 Lake Ol Bolossat; Kenya * |
| 55 Lake Victoria; Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda | 71 Lake Rwihinda; Burundi * |
| 56 Lake Bogoria; Kenya * | 72 Shompole Wetland; Kenya, Tanzania * |
| 57 Lakes of Bugesera Region; Burundi * | 73 Lake Wamala; Uganda * |
| 58 Bujagali Falls; Uganda * | 74 Lake Tanganyika; Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Zambia * |
| 59 Lake Bunyonyi; Uganda * | 75 Okavango Delta; Botswana |
| 60 Lake Chala; Kenya * | 76 Lake St. Lucia; South Africa |
| 61 Lake Ihema; Rwanda * | |
| 62 Lake Jipe; Kenya, Tanzania * | |
| 63 Lake Kanyaboli; Kenya * | |
| 64 Lake Katwe; Uganda * | |
| 65 Lake Kivu; Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda * | |
| 66 Lake Kyoga; Uganda * | |
| 67 Mau Forest; Kenya * | |
| 68 Lake Nabugabo; Uganda * | |
| 69 Lake Naivasha; Kenya * | |



ASIA

- 77 Dead Sea; **Israel, Jordan, Palestine**
 78 Lake Paliastomi; **Georgia**
 79 Lake Uluabat; **Turkey**
 80 Lake Eğirdir; **Turkey**
 81 Lake Sapanca; **Turkey**
 82 Lake Tengiz; **Kazakhstan**
 83 Lake Issyk-Kul; **Kyrgyzstan**
 84 Lake Hovsgol; **Mongolia**
 85 Lakes Ulaan, Airag, Khyargas and Angir-Nuden Mondochei; **Mongolia**
 86 Lake Uvs; **Mongolia**
 87 Lake Baikal; **Russia**
 88 Lake Poyang; **China**
 89 Lake Chao; **China ***
 90 Lake Dian; **China ***
 91 Lake Dongting; **China ***
 92 Lake Tai; **China ***
 93 Lake Biwa; **Japan**

AUSTRALIA / OZEANIA

- 104 Wilson Inlet; **Australia**

ANTARKTICA

- 105 Lake Vostok; **Antarctica**

* National member of a national or multi national Living Lakes Network.

Living Lakes-Webinars

In 2014 the GNF launched the Living Lakes Webinars to build up capacities within the Living Lakes Network and to increase exchange and collaboration between partner NGOs. We continued with the series of webinars on different exciting and promising themes also in 2015. These web-based seminars are effective tools to connect, exchange and succeed in our future projects. Contributions from Living Lakes Partners as well as external experts on the following topics were discussed:

- › Sustainable Development of Tourism Destinations
- › Green Filters – Innovative & cost-efficient systems for water purification benefitting people and the environment

The presentations are available for download on: www.globalnature.org/LivingLakesWebinars.



Master Plan to Save the Lower Jordan River

“An NGO master plan for restoring the Jordan River? How naive!” The EcoPeace Middle East environmental organization got used to hearing such resistance in the last three years, but their answer was to say that it is naive to think that the current situation can be allowed to persist. EcoPeace, the Global Nature Fund, and the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) presented the current version of their NGO master plan for restoring the Jordan River and the sustainable development of the Jordan Valley at an international conference from June 9th to 10th, 2015. 170 participants from Palestine, Jordan, Israel, and many other parts of the world came to discuss the recommendations proposed for transforming the river from a trickle back to a functioning ecosystem within a sustain-

ably developed river valley. Environmental organizations, supported by scientists and citizens, demonstrated that despite political conflicts, people can work well together. Financed by the European Union under the framework of the EU SWIM program, EcoPeace, SIWI, the Water and Environmental Development Organization and the GNF developed a comprehensive master plan that entails 127 concrete steps to take in the areas of drinking water acquisition, waste water management, agriculture, tourism, and clean technologies in order to restore the Jordan. All in all, by 2050 measures should be implemented that come to a total cost of around 4.6 billion USD. The priority measures alone required for restoring the river system require about a 32 million USD investment. Large sums! Finding the finances, however, is not the problem. A financing strategy has already been drafted and members from the EU, USA, Sweden, and other countries who took part in the conference in order to learn about the master plan have already pleaded their support. High ranking politicians coming to the conference from Israel, Jordan, and Palestine was a success in and of itself. All those politicians stressed the enormous cultural, political, and economic importance of the Jordan and that they would be ready to cooperate in order to stop the dramatic destruction of the river. The central question still remains, however, as to whether the boarding countries will use this chance to meet common challenges together.

The project has been finished in June 2015 and was funded by the European Union under the framework of the Sustainable Water Integrated Management (SWIM) program along with support by the Foundation Ursula Merz, the Environmental Action Germany and Rapunzel Naturkost with funds from the Hand in Hand-Fund.

More information can be found at: www.globalnature.org/swim-jordan.

» The impacts of climate change affect everyone in the Jordan Valley independent of their nationality or religion. The basic need for all people in the valley is our focus. Prudent water management and the restoration of an intact habitat are crucial components for achieving sustainable peace in the region.



Drinking Water for Africa

We have happy news from Hanover. After the use of recyclable drinking cups with a redeemable deposit had been revoked at the stadium for the 2014/2015 season, they have been reintroduced in August 2015. Large protests from environmental organizations and fans was therefore a success and the “Drinking Cups for Drinking Water” campaign can start its sixth season of collecting donations. As before, we’ll be energetically supported at every home game by the football club Hannover 96 and fan club Rote Kurve – 96 Supporters Club.

Ivory Coast

Despite a year-long disruption in the campaign, we were able to continue the project on the Ivory Coast, and in the winter of 2014, we managed to repair eight village wells with our partner Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity is planning to install additional groundwater pumps for supplying the villagers in six villages in the N’zi region. In the summer of 2015, five pumps were furnished by the Action pour le Développement et l’Encadrement Rural (ADER). In spring of 2016, ADER was active in six more villages in the “Région des 18 Montagnes” region in the Département Biankouma, where they repaired a total of seven wells.

Kenya

Sanitary facilities and water supply facilities were constructed and put into operation at the Akadoot elementary school in the Kenyan village of Malakisi. These actions were undertaken by the SOLidarity with WOMen in DIstress (SOLWODI) organization. In another Kenyan elementary school in the Ulamba village, an old well is being made deeper so as to provide a reliable source of ground water. A submersible pump makes it possible to bring water to the surface, where it is then stored in tanks and cleaned with a filtration system. All these measures were undertaken by Friends of Rural Women and Children (FORWAC) in the spring and summer of 2016. The school children from Ulamba Elementary and the village inhabitants all benefit from the project.

A big thanks goes to all the soccer fans whose donations made these projects possible, helping many people in the Ivory Coast and Kenya secure a clean source of drinking water. Other project financing that made the “Drinking Cups for Drinking Water” possible was provided in particular by the Foundation Ursula Merz, the Sika AG company, the Alfred Kärcher GmbH company from Austria.



« In the Benomba, Dantomba (pictured here), Dio, Loualeba, and Yaloba villages, repaired water pumps are now providing over 5,500 inhabitants with fresh ground water in the Ivory Coast.

Business and Biodiversity

Biodiversity and business are connected by much more than may be apparent at first glance. Biodiversity provides businesses from all sectors of all sizes with the raw materials and resources needed for their operations. These companies, however, can also impact the balance and stability of ecosystems. An automobile manufacturer, for example, has a direct impact by the land consumption of its large production facilities, and indirect by the use of aluminium, for which the production requires the mining of ore from regions with high degree of biodiversity. Making these interconnections clear and elucidating the impacts economic activity has on biodiversity is the goal of our “Business and Biodiversity” program.



Greening Company Grounds in Trend

Companies Act as a Beacon for Biodiversity Engagement!

In the Germany-wide “Greening of Company Premises” project, we are supporting companies in the design and layout of their premises together with the Heinz Sielmann Foundation and the Lake Constance Foundation. Project results clearly show that green company grounds are in trend – a win-win for biodiversity and the economy!

From about 50 interested companies, already half have created new habitats for plants and animals on their premises. We were also able to find seven forerunners from different branches who were able to implement various biodiversity enhancing measures on at least 30 % of their company outdoor spaces with their exemplary planning. Examples of their projects include multi-functional, near-natural rain-water biotopes, “eatable gardens” and regionally specific and biodiverse dry grasslands – all of which include rest spaces for employees and company visitors. The planning of these conservation measures was carried out under the framework of the project funded through the German Federal Agency for Nature

Conservation with funds from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety through the German Federal Biodiversity Program. The financing and implementation of biodiversity measures was the responsibility of participating companies. The project is motivating more businesses to take further steps toward the protection of biological

» Companies convert their grounds to biodiverse zones, showing their engagement for a green future – a large step in the right direction!

» The project “Greening of Company Premises” received an award in the context of The United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020 in July 2015.



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diversity. Green company grounds are therefore being used as a pragmatic first step. Insights into the planning of “Beacon Projects” and further information on the topic can be found on the project website at: www.naturnahefirmengelaende.de (only in German).

Biodiversity Criteria in Acquisition and Construction

Every year in Germany, public contractors acquire construction and service contracts that equate about 19 % of the gross domestic product. In 2010, the contracts were given out in the order of 480 billion Euros. About half of this is allocated to federal government and states, the other half to municipalities. Public contractors can use this market power for protecting biodiversity if they were to include these criteria in their purchasing requirements. However, biodiversity still hardly plays a role in public procurements, except for certain aspects like FSC certification for sustainably harvested wood. We are analyzing biodiversity criteria in current standards for 21 various product groups together with the Oeko-Institut - Institute for Applied Ecology, the Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW), and the Lake Constance Foundation. Based on the results, we will be formulating recommendations and a catalog of measures in order to optimize biodiversity criteria that are already in place and to integrate missing criteria into the standards. This is a significant undertaking that should be completed by the summer of 2017. An improved regard for

aspects of biodiversity conservation under the auspices of public procurement will contribute to the German national biodiversity strategy while sending a strong signal to the private sector that they should reinvigorate their efforts for natural conservation. This project is supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety.

« This is what it's all about. Biodiversity is the boss' responsibility.



« Public contractors can use their market influence for biodiversity protection. The public hand can be a role model for the private sector by changing their procurement requirements.



» Could impact investments provide a return and have a positive impact for biodiversity and society at the same time? This is the question the GNF is pursuing in their analysis of various impact investments. Their results will be available at the beginning of 2017 in a joint study conducted with OroVerde.



Forest and Biodiversity Conservation with New and Innovative Financing Mechanisms

With a yearly lack of financing of around \$200 billion to \$300 billion world-wide, public funds and private donations are vastly disproportionate for what is required to stop continuous deforestation and the loss of biodiversity. Much more importantly, private capital must be mobilized with innovative financial instruments. One possibility is offered by so called “impact investments” that combine positive social and ecological impacts with corresponding financial returns. Supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety as well as the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, we are investigating the concept of “Impact Investment” together with OroVerde - The Tropical Forest Foundation. By

» Industry and research obtain a variety of new substances for health, care, and biotechnology directly from nature. Biodiversity ensures innovation for a sustainable, bio-based economy.

means of case studies we will analyze current investments and how they provide benefits for the environment and society. Among them are investments with different approaches for biodiversity conservation, like support for smallholder farmers to establish agro-forest systems, the reforestation of degraded land with native tree species, and eco-tourism projects. Based upon our results, we will be providing recommendations for action to consumers, investors, financial institutes, and public policy makers that will be published via various media. Our goal is to popularize the “impact investments” concept.

Access and Benefit-Sharing: Challenges for Business and Development in Germany

Researchers all over the world are searching for new substances for pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and biotechnology. A complex challenge is presented in this dynamic when one considers the role of countries of origin and their inhabitants, who often live in highly biodiverse regions in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Indigenous peoples in particular possess handed down knowledge about the effects of natural substances that are often made profitable by industry and research. To regulate this, the Nagoya Protocol established “access and benefit-sharing” as a legally binding contract that went into place on October 12, 2014 and is currently being integrated into national legislation. This should finally provide a balanced and just distribution of profits while ensuring the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of its resources. Under the framework of the “Access & Benefit Sharing in Germany” project, we



are encouraging the dialog between various users of genetic resources and the regulating authorities in Germany with help from our partners, the Free University and Botanical Garden of Berlin as well as the Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig in Bonn. At two well attended conferences in October, 2015, in Bonn and in March, 2016, in Berlin, business representatives, scientists, and representative government officials met to learn and exchange information about best practices from industry and research. The results of these conferences are being summarized, and additional consultations with experts are leading to the creation of recommended actions. In this way, legally conforming trade guarantees the rights in resource providing countries while establishing the basis for a sustainable and fair use of genetic resources.

Business and Biodiversity: From Information to Action for Biodiversity

What do businesses have to with biodiversity and how can they get involved? The project “Enterprises and Biodiversity – Essentials for target-group-specific Information Brokering and Networking” gives answers. Together with the “Biodiversity in Good Company” initiative, we are gathering the relevant information about biodiversity for the private sector and summarizing it clearly so it can be applicable in actual real-world practice. In the series “Basic Knowledge: Companies and Biodiversity – Areas for Action and Practical Advice”, five cross-sectoral information modules have been produced. Modules describe the possibilities of employee engagement in nature conservation as well as the opportunities of a corporate communications about biodiversity. Biodiversity friendly supply chain management, the greening of company grounds and a general introduction in biodiversity and ecosystems for the private sector are more topics covered by the series.

Branch specific communications compliment the series. We are creating a brochure for vendors who deal with biodiversity themes in gardens and ornamental plants together with the German Do it yourself (DIY) trade association (BHB). The sales advisor offers alternatives to synthetic pesticides,

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Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt 2020

tips for supporting biodiversity in home gardens and guidelines for dealing with invasive species.

The project is part of the “Enterprises and Biodiversity 2020” initiative (Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt 2020) in which the BMUB, BfN, business associations, and conservations organizations – the GNF among them – are all engaged in turning back the tide of biodiversity loss. The project is being funded by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB).

Natural Capital Accounting Network

Our planet produces \$72 trillion worth of freely available natural goods and services every year. Businesses use natural capital and ecosystem services in various ways, making business largely depended on biodiversity. Nevertheless, natural capital inputs – as opposed to financial capital – has only rarely been a part of business accounting and decision making. By economically accounting for natural capital, natural goods and services that have been taken for granted are now talked about in a language that everyone can understand. When expressed in monetary value, the dependency on natural resources becomes more easily integrated into strategic decision making. Various negative environmental impacts can also be compared, and business decisions can be met with an expanded set of considerations that include environmental costs. The “Natural Capital Accounting Network” project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety and the German Federal Agency for the Environment. It follows our goal to facilitate natural capital valuations in German companies and to further integrate natural capital risks and opportunities.



« “Biodiversity in the value and supply chains” is one of five available information modules for business.

« The short “Pitch for Nature” video explains the meaning of natural capital for businesses. The GNF produced the German version of the video. The German and English version can be found on YouTube under the “Pitch for Nature” title.

Sustainable Development and Development Cooperation

The concept of sustainability is nothing new. Up till the industrial age, people's lives used to be strongly tied to sustainability – perhaps even out of an unperceived need. This has changed. Influenced by steady population growth, increasingly better standards of livings, and the flawed market-based paradigm of continual growth, an existential crisis has become apparent. Given this reality, the GNF is trying to contribute its part to protecting the natural limits of our planet and our future with pilot projects designed to stimulate development that is both sustainable, environmentally friendly, and socially just.



Learning from Nature – Waste Water Treatment with Green Filters

Untreated waste water presents a large environmental problem. In the rural regions of developing countries, household water run off often ends up untreated. This leads to long-term sanitation issues for the local residents and impacts the ecological balance of natural sources of water like ground water. Even in countries like Colombia, Mexico, and the Philippines, where water resources seem nearly inexhaustible, people suffer from polluted water.

Because of conditions such as these, we've developed a green filter pilot project in 2013 with our Colombian partner organization, Fundación Humedales in the San Miguel de Sema community. The project was funded by the German company Kärcher under the framework of the "Clean Water for the World" campaign. "Green filters" are clean-

ing systems for treating waste water. They consist of open canal systems with swimming aquatic plants that harmoniously fit into the landscape while also providing new habitats for threatened animal species. The functioning principle behind the green filters are the same mechanisms that work to breakdown harmful substances in natural wetlands. The roots of aquatic plants serve as a substrate for useful bacteria, building the heart of the filter. Water hyacinths were used in Colombia. Even though green filters have minimal maintenance and energy requirements, they achieve the same level of efficiency as modern sewage treatment plants. Up to 95 % of all unwanted nutrients and pathogens are broken down in the green filtration process.

After the first green filter in Colombia received very positive reviews from the regional water and environmental authority and even won the Planeta Azul Award, more green filter projects in the Susa, Cuítiva, and Fúquene communes were built between 2015 and 2016 with funding by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The model of efficient and affordable green filters has taught the Living Lakes Network a lot: in Mexico, South Africa, and the Philippines similar systems have been established in the last twelve months. The first green filters are also planned to start construction in 2017 in Paraguay and Nicaragua. The projects are funded through donations by the Foundation Ursula Merz and the Swiss Sika company.

✎ A water quality analysis of green filters in Susa, Colombia, show an effective rate of 90 % to 95 % for contaminants.





Interview with Felipe Valderrama, Project Manager of Fundación Humedales, Colombia, María Del Pilar Yepes Sánchez, CEO Kärcher Colombia, and Alejandro Gonzalez, CFO South America at Alfred Kärcher GmbH & Co. KG

GNF: Colombia is one of the most diverse countries on our planet, a place of outstanding natural beauty and resources, where clean water and intact nature seems abundant. Why does the country suffer from water pollution in spite of this?

Felipe Valderrama, Fundación Humedales: Colombia's problem concerning water resources has nothing to do with availability but with management. Despite the fact that Colombia has plenty of fresh water, a weak and erratic implementation of environmental policies for water resources management during the last 20 years, has reduced the availability of drinking water to only 40 % of the potential amount. The other 60 % cannot be used as drinking water because of climatic phenomena (El Niño), but most importantly because of pollution. Around 80 % of the wastewater generated in Colombia flow into superficial or sub-superficial water bodies without any treatment. The local authorities lack the technical and financial capacities to construct conventional water treatment plants. Non-conventional alternatives, like the Green Filter Systems, are cost effective, sustainable and efficient, and therefore a realistic solution for wastewater treatment in rural areas and small villages. Since April 2016 four Green Filters are operative in Colombia; three of them in the basin of Lake Fúquene and the other one in the Basin of Lake Tota, two of the most important lakes in the Northern high Andean region.

GNF: Kärcher has supported four Green Filter projects in Colombia aiming at demonstrating the advantages of this alternative sewage treatment technology. What was the motivation for Kärcher to get active?

María Del Pilar Yepes Sánchez, Kärcher Colombia: We have found in the GNF a partner which fits very well with our family company and our core business of water and cleaning. Also with this project we make an important contribution to the conservation of the natural resource water. It conserves and improves the ecological and biological diversity of rivers and lakes. This has a positive effect on hygiene conditions for the local population and reduces the incidence of illness.

⤴ The rangers in the Manyara wildlife preservation protect various threatened big game animals such as lions and elephants by helping create the requirements for a peaceful coexistence of the people and animals in Tanzania.

⤵ Felipe Valderrama, Project Manager Fundación Humedales, Colombia; María Del Pilar Yepes Sánchez, María Del Pilar Yepes Sánchez, CEO Kärcher Colombia, and Alejandro Gonzalez, CFO South America at Alfred Kärcher GmbH & Co. KG (from the left).



GNF: Why was this approach a success?

Alejandro Gonzalez, Kärcher Colombia: The Green Filters, as they were conceived, have to have two main characteristics: 1. They have to be as simple as technically possible, and 2. They have to be as cost-effective as possible. The idea of the Green Filter Project was, and still is, to offer an option for those municipalities who want to take over responsibility for the environment and to treat the wastewater, even if the professional and economic resources are not available for conventional facilities.

GNF: Is there a potential for more and maybe even larger Green Filters in Colombia?

Felipe Valderrama, Fundación Humedales: The potential of these non-conventional and eco-friendly technologies is immense for low-income and low-populated regions. Not to wonder why after the construction of these four Green Filters, environmental and sanitation authorities at a national level have come to find in this specific alternative a realistic and sustainable solution for wastewater treatment, at the point of suggesting the creation of a financing fund for the replication and up-scaling of the technology in different regions of Colombia.

Solar Energy for Kenya – Follow-up Measures

In December 2014, the multi-year “Solar Energy for Rural Kenya” EU project ended. The “WE!Hubs” (water energy stations) we constructed as part of this project are now providing people in rural Kenya with clean energy, affordable drinking water, and access to computers and training possibilities. The project consortium, which consists of our Osram technology partners and the Kenyan Thames Electricals company, also stayed in place after the project ended. Thames Electricals is involved in the follow-up measures that include the development of the young social enterprise, Light for Life. Light for Life is the project’s implementation partner and has taken over sole management since January 2015. The Siemens Foundation, supporter and cooperation partner of the EU project, is financing the measures through August 2016.

✎ A simplified loan system at the WE!Hub Stations enables the local population access to solar power production without the burden of high procurement or maintenance costs.

Protecting a Biosphere Reserve with Mate Cultivation

The Mbaracayú biosphere reserve is one of the most diverse regions in Paraguay. The highly protected 65,000 hectare private natural reserve is in the stewardship of the Moisés Bertoni environmental foundation. No people live within the actual park, but in the buffer zone around the conservation area, more than 30,000 people, indigenous and farmers carry on with their traditional lifestyles. They live – directly and indirectly – from the park’s natural resources. Biodiversity protection and the sustainable use of the reserve resources stand in the center of the project’s conception, which was developed by environmental organizations with the inclusion of the local population. Because nearly 75 % of the people in the region live under the poverty line and hardly anyone owns their own land, the development of sustainable sources of income for families is a top priority. The project’s main undertaking is the organic cultivation of yerba mate. Under the “Protection through Use” project framework, yerba mate farmers are trained and supported. Shade growing yerba mate is an essential part of Paraguay’s cultural inheritance and it can be cultivated directly in the rain forest. These trainings and workshops help project participants organize themselves and become independent. Within the project, management committees have been founded to better network the farmer, and equipment acquisitions and a yerba mate dryer have been financed. This helps the farmers break away from middlemen in the processing chain, which includes processing of





« Every participating farmer receives 1,200 saplings per hectare of land. The organic cultivation of yerba mate trees provides families with a sustainable source of income.

yerba mate tea leaves and the marketing of a high value added product. From 2012 to 2015, the pilot project was financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Other donors that have contributed to the project's financing include Daimler, the Foundation Ursula Merz, the Environmental Action Germany and Rapunzel Naturkost with funds from the Hand in Hand-Fund.

A Successful Energy Transition – Impossible without Citizen Participation

The need for energy is growing at an unending pace against the background of an ever increasing world population and higher living standards. Because fossil fuels are limited and the massive negative impacts on nature, environment and climate, that a fossil fuel energy system has, the rapid expansion of renewable energy systems is eminent for humanity's survival. In Germany, this

energy transition is driven "from the bottom" by engaged citizens. The continued expansion of renewable energy production is also a positive consequence of citizen engagement.

What can every individual do? Because the energy transition manifests itself in various forms through the EU member states, a consortium of six European institutions have collaborated to develop a common approach for success. In the fall of 2015, an interdisciplinary team from France, Belgium, Italy, Croatia, Hungary and Germany started collaborating on the "Citizens for Energy Transition" project. The goal of this EU Erasmus funded program is to further develop structures and instruments for engagement. It should be made explicit that the energy transformation is not limited to the "1%" or industrialized countries – as it is often portrayed. Instead, everyone is encouraged to contribute and participate.

» About one in sixty citizens in Germany are engaged in the expansion of renewable energy and act as an energy producer.



✎ In the project zone in northern Tanzania, the Maasai continue with traditional cattle rearing. The conflicts with lions present a threat to the existence of both parties.



Life in the Wild: Maasai Shepherds in Northern Tanzania

Maasai shepherds and wildlife live as direct neighbors in northern Tanzania. Conflicts naturally ensue when shepherds lose valuable livestock to wild predators. Unfortunately, these losses usually result to retaliatory lion killings, which have now started to threaten their population in the region. Tanzania is not the only place where diversity is lost due to these conflicts.

Throughout Africa, the lion population has been depleted by 40 % in the last 20 years. With this backdrop, the GNF and the African Wildlife Foundation have started a project that fosters the peaceful coexistence of people and wildlife by reducing attacks on livestock in the region. The project area encompasses the Manyara Ranch – a biodiverse wild animal reserve and an important migratory corridor for elephants and other wildlife. The two surrounding Maasai communities of Esilale and Oltukei are closely involved. A central aspect of the project is the livestock program, which improves the milk and meat production of the herds while dampening the impact of losing animals for the Maasai. Their income situation can thereby be sustainably improved. To mitigate human-wildlife conflict, scouts in the anti-poaching unit work in close collaboration with the local communities in the project's area and help prevent acts of revenge by separating pasture land from the lions' hunting grounds. The scouts regularly have meetings with the local communities to raise awareness on poaching an approach which has led to the locals supporting anti-poaching activities in the area. The two-year project is funded by the Foundation Ursula Merz as well as the Environmental Action Germany and Rapunzel Naturkost with funds from the Hand in Hand-Fund.

Mangrove Restoration in Asia

For over 10 years, the GNF has been involved in protecting mangroves. Mangrove forests play an exceedingly important role for people as a source of existence; for the climate as a carbon sink; and as a habitat for many plants and animals. At the same time, their continued decline is exceptionally worrisome: alone in the last 35 years, around 3.6 million hectares of forest have been destroyed. Together with partners from Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cambodia, and India, we have been working for years on the protection and restoration of this fascinating ecosystem. A project financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Coopera-



tion and Development and the Foundation Ursula Merz was successfully concluded at the end of 2015. After a four-year run-time, over 100 hectares of mangrove forest were restored. More than 20,000 children, youth, and adults were trained and integrated into the project by understanding the importance of protecting their mangrove forests as valuable wetlands. The development of alternative sources of income for the local population and the construction of international networks of experts were other important aspects of the project. A detailed handbook presents the results and experiences gained by the project. It can be obtained as a cost-free download on the GNF website. Another project titled "Mangrove Conservation in Asia" is being funded by the Daimler AG till the end of 2016, which enables the GNF to continue its work in the protection of mangroves. This multi-year undertaking builds on successful partnerships in various Asian countries and enables a broad expansion of measures in the branches of reforestation, environmental education, and the creation of alternative sources of income.

Mongolia – Between Development and Overuse

Mongolia belongs to the most sparsely populated countries on earth. Boarding with Russia and China, only three million inhabitants live in this second largest land-locked country in the world. As a result of Perestroika, Mongolia was able to break away from Soviet influence and introduced a democratic constitution in 1992. Despite the economic growth that followed – Mongolia enjoys



« The fishermen at Lake Pulicat are also benefitting from mangrove restoration: the mangroves provide spawning grounds for many fish species.

« After successfully reforesting the mangroves by the end of 2015, the seedlings were already over two meters high in some places. Biodiversity is also coming back as the forests regrow.

abundant mineral resources – around a third of the population still lives in desperate poverty. Set against high mountains and vast forests in the very rural northwestern part of Mongolia lies Lake Hovsgol National Park. In the middle of the park lies the Living Lakes partner lake, Lake Hovsgol – named the Blue Pearl by the natives. It is considered among the oldest and cleanest lakes in the world. This remote region has recently been attracting tourists. The number of visitors has increased by a factor of five in the last ten years. This is problematic because people were often illegally erecting new tourist camps that do not abide by sanitary laws or construct substand-

ard water purification facilities. The responsible park rangers are virtually fighting a lost cause. Around 20 rangers have to patrol an area of about 1.2 million hectares with partially inadequate equipment. This is where our project with the Mongol Ecology Center focuses. Under the framework of the project, which was funded by the EU from 2012 to 2015, rangers were trained for the national park administration. Environmentally friendly tourist attractions were supported and the managers of current camp grounds and ger camps (traditional nomad tents) were trained. Other founders have been the Sika AG and Erbacher Foundation.

» The training and equipping of rangers at Hovsgol National Park in Mongolia represent important milestones in the development of sustainable tourism in the region.



Nature Conservation

Along kilometers of undeveloped Caribbean coastline and on long drives through the German landscape, people may ask themselves why biodiversity is actually getting lost. There are insidious dangers which are devastating plants and animals. In the Caribbean it is the growing level of tourism and climate change that is threatening plants and animals in the water and on land. In Germany it is the march of industrial farming and forestry, which is not always based on contemporary management practices. On the national and international scale, most of the work is focused on just repairing the damage. But we have to prevent damage from happening in the first place.



Biodiversity in Mesoamerica

Pristine beaches, colorful coral reefs, tropical forests, and an overwhelming amount of biodiversity draw numerous crowds to destinations like the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Guatemala. This is, however, unfortunate because it also leads to a situation where a mix of desperation and profit combine to exploit these delicate ecosystems. In order to protect the services these ecosystems provide, the Biodiversity Partnership Mesoamerica (BPM) was founded in 2012. Their goal is similar to the GNFs European Business and Biodiversity Campaign, which seeks to bring together stakeholders from various sectors of the economy, government agencies, and civil society in order to exchange tools, methods, and information. Under the framework of a project by the German Association for International Cooperation GIZ in Costa Rica, we are supporting the BPM achieve their goals. In the Dominican Republic, two seminars were conducted over the course of several days, in which the concept of biodiversity and various tools were presented to segments of the powerful and important tourist sector. An initial biodiversity check was conducted at one tourist destination and proven conservation methods were translated into Spanish. An interdisciplinary group called the "Empresas y Biodiversidad" (Businesses and Biodiversity) was formed in the Dominican Republic from government representatives, consulting firms, tourist companies, and environmental groups who are further working on biodiversity with the accompaniment of the GNF.

Agenda Species Conservation: Endangered Species at Living Lakes

The recent conclusions of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – of which the GNF is also a member – are shocking. More than 20 % of the 76,000 adequately classified animal species and over 50 % of plant species populations are threatened or are threatened by worldwide extinction. Migratory and endemic species – species that only exist in a certain clearly defined region – are much more threatened than widely spread species with simple needs. Many species in and around lakes fulfill the criteria of endemic species. Advancing settlements of people caused by demographic growth in many countries, the introduction of invasive species, overfishing, and inputs from foreign chemicals have been increasingly putting the valuable efforts of conservation to the test. We have been especially active in protecting endemic and migratory species with our partners for a long time. Generally, lakes are not very well incorporated in nature conservation. No overview exists in the GNF or at the IUCN or at the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation describing the situation of endangered endemic and migratory species that are directly reliant on lakes and wetlands. We want to target our efforts at closing that gap with the Agenda Species Conservation project, which is funded by the Foundation Ursula Merz. Lakes and wetlands are to be particularly stressed as locations of special biodiversity. An analysis and probability study for protecting certain select



species in the Living Lakes Network round off the project.

yojo-magazin.de – Young Journalists for the Environment go online

75,000 is the number that symbolizes the success of the amount of page hits certain articles have received on www.yojo-magazin.de. The first seven articles from the Friedrich-Hecker-Gymnasium's project group out of Radolfzell on Lake Constance, Germany, went online in the summer of 2015. The articles from the Gymnasium Bad Nenndorf at Lake Steinhuder Meer went online shortly before Christmas 2015. This success was only possible through hard journalistic work. During weekend seminars, students learned about journalistic writing, photography, and picture editing. Each of the three excursions lead the students through various habitats. Divided into teams of journalists, themes were assigned, content was researched, interviewees were selected, and quotes were chosen. The first drafts were often quite good, however all drafts were still reviewed and edited with suggestions sent back to the authors by the GNF project leader and Jan Berndorff – the former chief editor of NATUR magazine. More than 13 articles that lend insight into what youth are perceiving and interested in were created in this manner. Other articles describe the project and detail certain project milestones. 18 blog entries report on project daily activities and other interesting details that the young journalists noticed. In a third activity, the school groups created a

documentary film. Again, expert seminars about interviewing techniques, documentary filming, and video editing were undertaken. The young journalists developed a concept with the working title "Radolfzell – the Environment-Check" that was finished in the summer of 2016. This undertaking is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety and the German Federal Environmental Agency.

➤ The cooperation with companies in the tourist industry, agriculture, and other sectors is an approach for preserving the biodiversity in the Caribbean.

✎ School groups design the environmental online journal "yojo-magazin.de" and film a documentary.





» There is a lot of space for biodiversity on the Hopfenburg farm in the Swabian Alps, Germany.

Biodiversity on Campgrounds

Camping grounds use large areas that are often in or on the border of especially valuable landscapes and protected zones upon which they also rely. For this very reason, the association for sustainable camping Ecocamping and the GNF are working on the biodiversity topic in a joint project. The example for these activities is provided by a project funded by the German Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs that supports corporate social responsibility in organic wine growing. We visited 30 camping grounds to conduct branch specific biodiversity checks. In addition to these individual consultations, we developed a biodiversity program that was made available to over 200 camping companies. The central goal of this project was to encourage the introduction of new spaces for biodiversity on campgrounds. A knowledge pool will facilitate the implementation of measures, trainings, and informational campaigns. Experts from the GNF and Ecocamping are impressed by the diversity of possibilities that camping companies are already using in order to protect biodiversity. The project was awarded the distinction as an official

UN Decade project for biodiversity in 2015. It is funded by the German Federal Environmental Foundation.

Partnership for Biodiversity Conservation among European Winegrowers

The year 2016 began with an award for the cooperative work with the GNF and their partner in the “Biodiversity in Organic Wine Growing” project. Journalist and diplomat to the UN Decade for

» Project partners from Portugal, Spain, and Turkey at the first transnational meeting at ECOVIN in Oppenheim, Germany.

» The project “Biodiversity on Campgrounds” has been awarded in August 2015 in the context of The United Nations Decade of Biodiversity 2011-2020.



Ausgezeichnetes Projekt
UN-Dekade Biologische Vielfalt
 2016

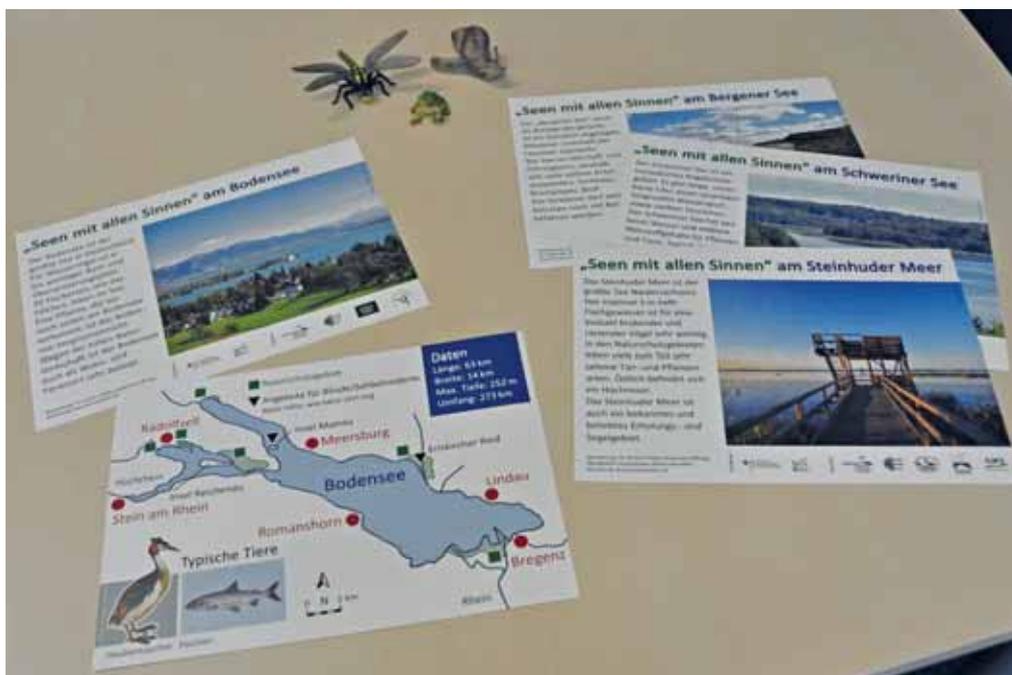
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Biodiversity, Nina Ruge, presented the official distinction at the Biofach fair in Nuremberg. With this tailwind, the new EU "Partnership for Biodiversity Conservation among European Wine-growers" project was launched. The measures are coordinated by a knowledge transfer between non-profit organizations, growers associations, farmers, and processors. Partners from Germany, Portugal, Spain, and Turkey are involved. Rapunzel Naturkost is also on board as an important GNF partner with projects supported by the Hand and Hand-Fund for several years. Under the framework of the previous organic wine projects, the "Business and Biodiversity Check" was adapted to German wine growing in cooperation with the ECOVIN federal association for organic wine growing. This branch specific biodiversity check will now be adapted Mediterranean climate conditions to work in the northern European climate. Information about biodiversity and a small field guide was created in several languages. Ultimately, every country is to establish biodiversity program that is publicly available and that will be implemented by farmers. The project is funded by the EU-Erasmus+ program.

Lakes without Limits

Accessibility and inclusion for blind and visually impaired people – one would think that in the year 2015 we would have made large steps by now. That is unfortunately not the case, which is why the European Living Lakes Network would like to make nature free of barriers for the blind and visually impaired. A central function is being

taken over by the Databus data bank – the most important directory of recreational offerings for the blind and visually impaired. Of about 500 offerings, till now only about 10 % of them are associated with nature, mostly in the form of zoos or botanical gardens. Experience in open nature is hardly to be had. A survey taken by the Network Living Lakes Germany also indicated that such recreational offerings are seldom available. The GNF and their project partners in the "Experience Nature for the Blind and Visually Impaired" have taken up this problem with a focus on guided tours in nature. A handout was created for nature educators that contains information for preparing and carrying out events and activities that can be customized for each individual by the field guide. Five lakes from our network – the Chiemsee, Bodensee, Schweriner See, Steinhuder Meer, and Bergener See – have created individualized concepts based on this model and now offer special activities to the blind and visually impaired. 3D nature experience maps are also helpful and have been created for each lake. The maps are high contrast and have been created in braille. Important elements of the lakes such as its shoreline and conservation zones have been represented. The maps can be used by people with vision just as well as by the visually impaired and blind. This undertaking was funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety from special edition stamp funds. Further information can be found at: www.natur-sinn.org (only in German).



« Maps such as these are especially designed for the blind and visually impaired and are only available for five lakes in the Network Living Lakes Germany.



⤴ Elephants have destroyed a grain storage unit. Conflicts with these animals reduce people's willingness to support conservation projects and lead to acts of revenge.

» Training the local population shows how conflicts with elephants can be avoided. A friendly coexistence between animals and people heightens the acceptance of protecting wildlife.

Fighting Poaching and Wildlife Trafficking in East and South Africa

We have been engaged in the fight against poaching of rhinos with our South African partners for many years. Our involvement has grown from the start of a new rhino conservation project in 2015 and an initiative for the protection of elephants in the border regions between Kenya and Tanzania. In 2015, over 1,300 rhinos and around 25,000 elephants were killed by poachers in order to provide especially the Asian black market with valuable ivory products. Ivory is a status symbol and is used for example for religious carvings, rhino horn is used for its alleged healing powers and as status symbol. A steadily increasing illegal market for these products has maintained a high price for such wildlife products. The sustained poaching of both iconic animals dramatically threatens their populations. Large international crime syndicates for illegal wild animal products and corruption have spurred the illegal trade and provide an obstacle to sustainable development in African countries. We have started "Project Rhino: Fighting Illegal Poaching in South Africa" in 2015, which is active in the KwaZulu Natal Region. There we are implementing concrete measures for fighting poaching together with our South African part-

ner organization, Wildlands Conservation Trust. Game wardens are being trained and deployed as part of this project, which also cooperates with Mozambique to fight illegal trade. We are also implementing the "Wild Animal Conservation on Kilimanjaro: Fighting Poaching and Illegal Trade in Border Regions of Kenya and Tanzania" project in conjunction with the African Wildlife Foundation. Strengthening the cooperation of both countries in the fight against poaching through the use of coordinated patrols, political exchange, and the reduction of conflicts between elephants and the local populations stand in the forefront of this project. Farmers can better protect their fields from crop destruction with concrete actions such as setting up lanterns and sirens. This also leads to less elephants being killed in acts of revenge. Both projects are financed through the German Polifund-Project "Fighting Poaching and Illegal Trade in Africa and Asia". This development project is being implemented by the German Federal Agency for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in close cooperation with the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).



Interview with Klemens Riha, coordinator of the Polifund project at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

GNF: Mr. Riha, what exactly is the Polifund and what is its goal?

Riha: The fund for cross-cutting political cooperation (so called Polifund) serves to better network the German Government's different development approaches in various sectors in order to enhance the coherence of Germany's overall international commitments. The specific goal of the Polifund involvement in combating poaching is to help tackle poaching and illegal wildlife trade along the entire illegal chain of trade between African countries of origin as well as transit countries and in the predominantly Asian consumer countries. To achieve this, the expertise and capacities of governmental, non-governmental and private actors are being bundled and a cross-sector cooperative partnership is being supported.

GNF: Why is poaching and the worldwide illegal trade with animal products such an important topic for the German Federal Government?

Riha: Poaching of often already endangered animals has increased dramatically in the last years due to the increasing demand – mostly in Asia – for illegal animal products such as ivory and rhino horn. Poaching also affects protected areas in Africa which have been supported by German development cooperation for many years. In many places, highly organized groups of poachers present a new dimension of this threat, and the illegal trade is often firmly in the hands of criminals. This is not only a problem for the conservation of these often critically endangered species, but increasingly also threatens the livelihoods and security of the affected human population. Maintaining intact conservation zones for wildlife is also an important basis for the sustainable economic development of partner countries in Africa, particularly for tourism.

GNF: In which way do the GNF projects financed through the Polifund support these goals?

Riha: The Polifund is supporting activities, which directly contribute to achieving the Polifund's overall objectives to help reduce poaching and to ensure the long-term survival of wildlife in a number of African partner countries. In this context, a cooperation approach built on mutual trust between the local population, the game wardens, and the police plays a central role. The Polifund draws important lessons from these activities that can be applied in other regions in Africa, since neither law enforcement nor citizen participation alone will be sufficient to combat the current poaching crisis.

Sekisui European Children's Eco Summit 2015 in Germany

In the course of the three-day event, 26 young people from seven European countries had the possibility of getting to know each other while framing their own ideas and suggestions on environmental protection. An interesting program for the young winners of a company-internal photography competition and also for their parents, Board members and the president of Sekisui Chemical as well as participants from Lake Constance structured these days in September 2015. The program started with a joint planting activity of willow saplings at the creek Radolfzeller Aach. The young will ensure habitat and basic food resources of Beaver families in the area. Afterwards, the children could press apple juice, build insect hotels, or create music instruments out of natural materials in further practical workshops. In the framework of the event, the young participants developed messages, recommending measures for environmental protection on private as well as company scale. For example, besides solar panels on company buildings, the acquisition and usage of hybrid-cars would contribute to a positive ecological footprint of the corporation. In the end of the event, Teiji Koge, President of Sekisui, committed to foster and expand further cooperation of the company with NGOs. Sekisui



and the Global Nature Fund have been cooperating since 2012. As part of this collaboration, the issue of biodiversity is getting entrenched into quality- and environmental management policies in Sekisui's European company branches.

➤ Sekisui President Koge and the young people at the joint planting activity.



⤴ Garbage collecting action for the big and small of the Baikal Information Center GRAN help free the shorelines on “Siberia’s Pearl” from trash while sharpening the environmental awareness of people living near the lake.



Environmental Education to Protect the Baikal Seal

Lake Baikal is constantly being confronted with more problems that unsettle scientists as well as the local population. Forest fires, the depletion of water levels, the spread of the Spirogyra alga, and the uncontrolled increase of tourism that has become associated with pollution and trash on the lake’s shorelines. Our local partners, the Baikal Information Center GRAN, has reported that the investigations indicate the water quality of this huge lake has not yet undergone any significant change. However, the first signs of damage are still present. For example, several species of fish have stopped spawning where the Spirogyra alga has spread. The consequences lead to a deple-

tion of nutrients for the endemic Baikal seals – a freshwater species that only lives in Lake Baikal. This is not the only impact. Fishermen are also complaining about lower catches and have started blaming the seals. We are looking for financing possibilities together with our partners so we can continue the numerous campaigns and projects GRAN has been implementing to sensitize and inform the local population for solving regional environmental problems.

Conservation in Pantanal

The Pantanal is the largest wetland in the world with an unbelievably large amount of biodiversity. The Living Lakes partner organization in Brazil, Ecotrópica, has been engaging in protecting this

⤵ "Where No Man Has Gone Before ..." Like that a description of the Pantanal could begin, one of the biggest paradises for wild-life on earth.



unique habitat for more than 25 years. The work of Ecotrópica currently concentrates on the planning of a scientific study of the fauna along the Transpantaneira, a gravel road that leads straight through Pantanal on its way from Poconé to Porto Jofre. Till now, there has only been insufficient data on the impacts this road has had on biodiversity. That is why a systematic assessment of all vertebrate species in the area and those run over by cars is planned. This information will build the groundwork for developing measures to protect the animals in this region. Additionally, tourists, hotels, and the local populations are to be sensitized to the conservation measures and sustainable development being undertaken across the Transpantaneira.

New Campaign for Protecting Lions in South Africa

In South Africa, around 200 breeding farms are raising around 7,000 lions under many shocking conditions. The number has more than doubled the amount of their free-living counterparts in the wilderness of this country, whose numbers are guessed to be between 2,500 and 3,000 individuals. The breeding animals are not designed for conservation purposes, however, but are rather part of an organized industry in which the king of the animals is exploited for the tourist and hunting industry as a highly profitable source of income. Clueless tourists pay for the chance



to feed, cuddle, and take supposedly orphaned lion babies on walks. Once they reach adulthood, however, these animals are not let into the wild, rather they end up as hunting trophies or as mark-off tiger supplements in traditional Chinese medicine. In order to make these unethical practices public and to reduce the demand for such offerings, we started the "Lions for Sale – Bred for the Bullet" campaign in early 2016 by placing the publicity from tourists, volunteers, and hunters here in Germany in the forefront.

Lions for Sale is the German counterpart of the "Blood Lions™"-campaign of Wildlands Conservation Trust and Regulus Vision in South Africa.

⚡ Unknowingly, volunteer workers on these breeding farms are actually part of the hunting industry as they raise the baby lions themselves thinking that they will be released into the wild once they reach adulthood.



« Little lions are separated from their mothers after just a few days on the breeding farms in order to make money with them in the tourist industry.



⤴ The Joëlette enables new forms of natural experiences for people with disabilities.

Protecting Cultural Landscapes in Europe

Extremadura

Extremadura for Strong Nerves - Nature for Everyone with a Joëlette

At first sight, it seems like a “Joëlette” is moved by two people with the grace of a princess. This unusual alternative form of transportation was developed for the outdoors for people with disabilities. The carriers certainly need strong nerves when they go over sticks and stones searching for black-winged kite and Azure-winged magpie in the Spanish Cáceres and Trujillo. The effort is worth it because the Joëlette allows people access to natural experiences in difficult terrain that was previously impossible. “Nature for Everyone” has become an important European-wide theme. Above all, an impulse came out of Spain for an active natural experience for the blind and visually impaired. The Spanish partners are making the Extremadura accessible for all people through support from donations and sponsorships. To ensure safety with the operation of the Joëlettes, 40 volunteers were trained in the use of this mobility aid.

» The red list of threatened domestic livestock indicates that the Andalusian chicken is extremely endangered. Only about 400 of these animals are registered. Our partners in the Extremadura region have dedicated themselves to the challenge of breeding this species to preserve its existence.

Practice makes perfect!

Innovative, creative, and exemplary – this is how project concepts for national and international environmental organizations should be conceptualized. Nonetheless, often it is still the traditional and age old conservation practices that contribute substantially to maintaining our cultural landscapes. Unfortunately there are hardly any

funds available for our cultural landscapes. The public hand and the EU finance nearly exclusively conservation zones. Useful additional measures such as maintaining rare livestock breeds like the white Cáceres cattle or the black Merino sheep are therefore exclusively reliant on donated money. It is even more good news that both breeds actually increased in numbers on the Spanish model finca Baldiío near Talaván. Both breeds are especially well suited to the local conditions and have played a decisive role in maintaining the cultural landscape for centuries. Land clearing, restoration of cork oaks, and organic beekeeping are further measures that donations have supported year after year.

Proud Roosters, Hard Working Hens

Innovation plays a large role in this project as our Spanish partners are never running out of ideas. The work at the Spanish Institute for Agricultural and Nutritional Research and Technology is definitely new. Five traditional breeds of hen that include the Black Castilian and the Andalusian chicken are being tested. The Andalusian chicken is an especially impressive and rare breed of hen that also used to be widespread in Germany. It is not so easy maintaining traditional breeds. Andalusian eggs used to be incubated by “foster hens” because the Andalusian hen showed little interest in sitting on their own eggs. These are the types of challenges faced with caring for old breeds. In exchange, you get hens that are full of character and who are healthy, robust, and very productive. Protection through use – an old concept that is being revitalized.



Majorca

After 25 years of political, scientific, and campaign work the time has come: the idyllic beach in Es Trenc and the wetlands of the salt facilities of Campos in southern Majorca have been declared a natural park. "Salobrar de Campos" has been a member of the Living Lakes Network since 2004 and finally will receive lasting protection. A resort spa was to be built directly on the salt flats of Campos, like the Albufera one of the most important nesting and rest spots for water fowl in Majorca. Together with our Majorcan partners, Grup Balear d'Ornitologia i Defensa de la Naturalesa (GOB), we were able to prevent this development with an international campaign. The GOB has supported the development of a natural park for years while also protecting the Es Trenc shoreline from unregulated tourist use.

Cooperation in the salines

Since August 2014, a cooperation agreement exists between GOB and Salinas de Llevant, owners of the salt flats. The GOB leads the salt flat measures for biotope improvement for breeding birds and advises companies on the environmental aspects of the salt flats with financial support from Germany and from Germans in Majorca. Tourists are informed about the salt flats and offered guides, which provide an important contribution to sustainable tourism for the vacation island that is Majorca.

Eco-tax preserves nature

The declaration as a Natural Park is also bound by concrete measures. Guiding visitors should

help in protecting the dunes and to help partially restore them while making people aware of the importance of this habitat. Illegal parking lots are being reclaimed and new ones created that do not burden the habitats. The coastline by the beach, where many fish lay their eggs in the posidonia water plants, is also being protected. Anchoring yachts and motorboats will also be environmentally friendly regulated. Finally there will be rangers guarding this natural paradise. Finances that were raised through the newly introduced eco-tax in July will be used as a source of finance. The tourists who pay eco-taxes at hotels will see that their money is going to a good cause while also creating much needed new jobs in Spain.

Natural paradise Salobar de Campos

Here an area of about 1,500 hectares is preserved as nature and bird reserve as well as Ramsar Wetland of International Importance. Many species of wading birds such as the Kentish plover and the Black-winged stilt breed in Salobrar de Campos, and in the summer the flamingos arrive, followed by cranes that come for the winter months. 170 bird species have been registered here by GOB specialists. A wonderful place for bird watchers.

An especially unusual life-form in the salt flats is called the *Artemia salina*. This tiny 4 millimeter long ancient brine shrimp counts among the oldest and most adaptive organisms on earth. Its red orange color is created from a hemoglobin pigment that makes it possible for them to survive in oxygen poor water with a salt content of up to 300 grams per liter.

✍ Years of work with our Majorca Living Lakes partner, GOB, have paid off. Finally the idyllic shoreline in Es Trenc and the wetlands of the Campos salt flats in southern Majorca have been declared a Natural Park.





Environmental Education and Public Relations

Environmental education and public relations plays a central role in GNF projects. Next to classic print media, electronic media is ever more important for target oriented and cross-generation communication work with the goal of preserving the living value of nature for the generations that will proceed ours.



All publications are accessible on www.globalnature.org/publications.

Media Work

In the year 2015, we sent out 24 German and six English press releases. At the year's begin, we built upon the traditional themes of "Threatened Lake of the Year" and "Living Lake of the Year". Our projects, campaigns, awards, and the availability of publications offer interesting themes that spark wide interest among the public.

Publications

On the **GNF-Website**, all publications are available for download under the "Publications" section (www.globalnature.org/Publications). Especially recommended is the English language handbook on mangrove restoration that was published as part of the mangrove conservation project in Asia. A variety of brochures and studies also were



» The GNF is regularly publishing news about the project work – in the GNF newsletter (available in English and German) as well as in the German magazine DUHwelt.



released in the year 2015 under the project area of businesses and biodiversity that were created with our project partners. The GNF-Newsletter also appears regularly in German and English where current themes, projects, and conferences are discussed. All editions can be downloaded on our website (www.globalnature.org/Newsletter) or you can subscribe to receive them via email. The **DUHwelt** magazine that the Environmental Action Germany publishes four times a year together with the Global Nature Fund is informative for current themes in German speaking regions.

Exhibitions

The traveling exhibition “Pantanal – An Endangered National Paradise” was being shown at the city library in Waiblingen, Germany, through June and July 2015. On the closing event the biologist Angelika Hofer led visitors through lively evening discussions about this fascinating South American wetland. The exhibition for protecting the Jordan River was on display the whole year of 2015 at the Arche Noah in Dordrecht, Holland. The “Living Lakes Germany” exhibition was showed in April 2015 at the Living Lake of the Year 2015 event at Lake Schwerin.

Workshops and Exhibitions

In addition to exhibitions that are parts of our projects, the GNF was also present at the Biofach fair in Nuremberg, the German CSR Forum, and the Green Week in Brussels where we presented topical lectures, held workshops, and gave semi-

nars. The year 2016 started with the participation of the GNF in the yearly Nature Conservation Days at Lake Constance. On this occasion, the Baden-Wuerttemberg Minister President, Winfried Kretschmann, awarded the GNF with the UN Decade award for our “Network Living Lakes Germany” project.

Internet

On our website (www.globalnature.org), we provide information in German and English about all our projects, campaigns, and exhibitions as well as detailed information about our partners and our global Living Lakes Network. More than 500,000 visitors from around the world visited our website in the year 2015. With scalability of text size and the increase of contrast, we have made our website even more user-friendly and barrier-free. Specific projects have been set up on separate websites together with our partners. The www.business-biodiversity.eu website still enjoys large popularity as it did when it came online in 2010 as part of the European Business and Biodiversity Campaign where it offers detailed information on exhibitions and the project background. News is now posted on Twitter (Username. @probiodiversity). The website has developed into a reliable source of information on Business and Biodiversity themed issues and is visited and used by around 60,000 users every month. The English website, www.we-hub.org, provides information about progress being made with our Water-Energy Hubs for Kenya project

➤ Presentation of the UN Decade Award by the Baden-Wuerttemberg Minister President, Winfried Kretschmann, for the “Network Living Lakes Germany” project that took place at the Nature Conservation Days in Radolfzell, Germany.



where you can find information on the project partners, background stories, locations, and also videos that show phases of construction at the various Hub stations. The German website www.kmu-nachhaltigkeitscheck.de has been established in the framework of the SME Sustainability Check project that the GNF has lead with the adelphi research GmbH and the Institute for Applied Material Flow Management in Trier.

The lebensmittelstandards.business-biodiversity.eu website has provided information on the background of the “Biodiversity Criteria in Standards and Quality Labels for the Food Industry” project. Specific information is available on the “Online Information Platform for Biodiversity Markets” projects on the website www.naturalcapitalmarkets.org. On the website of the “Greening of Company Premises” project, www.naturnahefirmenge-laende.de, you can find guides, suggestions, and real-world examples for implementing biodiversity friendly measures on your company grounds. The activity updates from the “Young Journalists for Nature” project are available to see on Twitter and Facebook at: www.twitter.com/Yojo_Magazin and www.facebook.com/yojomagazin.de. The young journalists also report of the origins of their articles and interviews on their blog: www.yojo-magazin.de. The English website www.citizens4energytransition.org provides information on activities of the “Citizens for Energy Transition” project. Handicap accessible offerings from the “Nature Experiences for Everyone” project are available at: www.natur-sinn.org. The GNF regularly provides information on their “Lions for Sale – Bred for the Bullet” campaign on: www.facebook.com/lionsforsale.de. Current and relevant themes can be found on Facebook: www.facebook.com/globalnature.org.

Awards

Four GNF Projects receive UN Decade Awards for Biodiversity

With the UN Decade for Biodiversity, the United Nations is calling upon the world to engage more strongly on behalf of biodiversity. It is about making the meaning of biodiversity has for our lives more clear and to recognize actions that contribute to the protection and conservation of diverse species, genes, and habitats. The backdrop of this initiative is the continuing reduction of biodiversity in practically all countries on earth. The “UN Decade Biodiversity Project” award is given to projects that protect biodiversity in an

exemplary manner. We have received this award for the following projects:

- › July 2015: “Business and Biodiversity: Greening of Company Premises”
- › August 2015: “Biodiversity at Camping Sites in Germany”
- › January 2016: “Network Living Lakes Germany”
- › February 2016: “Nature Protection and Biodiversity Conservation as a Task for CSR in small and medium sized businesses, Germany: Ecological Viticulture” together with Lake Constance Foundation and ECOVIN federal association for organic wine growing

Biodiversity-Checks Awarded with the 2016 Rhinehessen Sustainability Prize

In January 2016, ECOVIN was awarded the Rhinehessen Sustainability prize for their Biodiversity-Check, which was developed in partnership between the GNF and the Lake Constance Foundation. The Biodiversity-Check is part of the “Nature Protection and Biodiversity Conservation as a Task for CSR in small and medium sized businesses, Germany: Ecological Viticulture” project.

Awards for the Living Lakes Partners

Planeta Azul Award for Green Filters in Colombia

The Fundación Humedales was awarded for its ecological and cost efficient sewage treatment initiative. The green filter in the San Miguel de Sema commune in Colombia received the “First Big Prize of the 12th Planeta Azul Awards” from the Banco Occidental. The Planeta Azul Award is given to projects that help sensitive people to environmental issues and protect valuable natural resources in Colombia.



» Heather Leschied of Living Lakes Canada & Wildsight was honored as “Water Hero”.

Living Lakes Canada Team Member honored as “Water Hero”

In March 2015 Heather Leschied - program manager for Wildsight’s Living Lakes Canada water team, one of the founders of the Lake Windermere Ambassadors and Friends of Kootenay Lake - was honored as one of WWF Canada’s Water Heroes, and named a finalist for Water Canada’s Water’s Next Award. The Water Heroes are Canadians who are working tirelessly to monitor water quality in local waterways, restore habitat for frogs, turtles and fish, repair degraded riverbanks and engage their communities in stewarding local waters. Heather was profiled specifically for her work on the Flathead River.

EcoPeace Nominated for Thiess International River Prize

In recognition for their efforts to promote the restoration of the Lower Jordan River, EcoPeace was nominated as one of three finalists for the Thiess International River Prize in July 2015.

Spanish Living Lakes Partner Recognized by the Fundación Daniel y Nina Carasso

The Fundación Global Nature and their “Differentiated Marketing Based on Biodiversity Use” project was awarded the prize for the “Nutrition that Profits People and the Environment” category by the Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation in November 2015.

Wetland Conservation Advocacy Award for Philippine Living Lakes Partner

Our Philippine Living Lakes partner organization, the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands, received the “Wetland Conservation Advocacy Award” in March 2016 in recognition of their campaign to conserve and sensibly use wetlands.

Memberships

Over the years, Global Nature Fund has extended its number of memberships in various associations. Whereas some memberships started with projects, others have more strategic reasons. We are currently a member in the following organizations:

- › Association of German Foundations
- › Association of German Press Officers
- › BION – Biodiversity Network Bonn
- › Climate-Alliance Germany
- › ECOCAMPING e.V.
- › ECOTRANS e.V. – European Network for Sustainable Tourism Development
- › EU-Russia Civil Society Forum
- › Freshwater Action Network
- › German Fundraising Association
- › German League for Nature, Animal and Environment Protection – DNR
- › International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- › Natural Capital Coalition
- › TransFair e.V. (Fairtrade Germany)



« The green filter was developed and constructed within the framework of a pilot project in close cooperation with the Fundación Humedales (Colombia), the Global Nature Fund, the San Miguel de Sema commune, the regional authority CAR, and with support from the Kärcher (Germany) and Sika (Switzerland) companies.

About Us

The Global Nature Fund (GNF) is an international foundation for the protection of environment and nature, chartered in 1998. It is a non-governmental organization that only pursues non-profit goals in support of environmental protection, nature conservation, landscape management, species protection, and environmental education. International cooperation plays a key role in these projects. The main office is located in Radolfzell, Germany, by Lake Constance. Additional offices are located in Bonn and Berlin.



The foundation's aims are realized through the:

- › Development of projects that promote sustainable economic activities as well as climate protection and wildlife conservation.
- › Initiation and implementation of nature and environmental protection projects for the conservation of the diverse fauna and natural habitats.
- › Environmental education through publications and events promoting the protection of nature and environment.
- › Promotion of international conventions on the protection of environment, nature, species, climate, and water.
- › Promotion of international dialogue between environmental organizations, industries, administrations, politicians, and scientists.
- › Support for sustainable and fair development around the world as long as these are in conjunction with nature and environmental protection issues.

Structure

Supervision and voluntary inspections

The Global Nature Fund was approved by the Senate Office for Justice in Berlin as a foundation on April 29, 1998, pursuant to § 80 of the Berlin legal code in conjunction with § 2 Clause 1 of the Berlin Law on Foundations. The supervisory authority has to review and approve potential changes to the foundation's charter. Once a year

an audit report about the annual financial statement is submitted to both the foundation authorities, and voluntarily submitted to a certified auditing firm for reviewing purposes. GNF received a full attestation in both cases. Furthermore, GNF is controlled regularly by the German tax authority. As the foundation is recognized as charitable, donations and additional endowment contributions can be set off against tax liability. Besides, if GNF is appointed as the statutory heir of an asset, the foundation is exempted from paying inheritance tax. The foundation's assets are currently 417,638.04 Euro. According to the foundation's charter, these assets have to be covered by GNF's stocks and can be supported with donations starting at 20,000 Euro.

Honorary Positions

According to § 4 of the charter, the honorary positions of the foundation are the Board of Directors and the **Founders Committee**. The Founders Committee meets annually, represents the interests of the founders, oversees the work of the Board of Directors, and decides on its discharge. At present the committee is comprised of three seats: Michael Bauer (Chairman), Jürgen Resch (Vice Chairman), and Prof. Dr. Thomas Feske. In addition to the active board members, there are also passive stakeholders and advisors. To these belong Mrs Karla Bauer, who departed on 5.2.2016 at the age of 89 years, and Dr. Renate Gehring. The **Board of Directors** leads and manages the foundation in accordance with its statutes. Busi-

Travelling to Protect the

Environment

The GNF documents all flights by its employees and board members and calculates the CO₂ emissions. On the basis of the calculations by the climate organization myclimate, the GNF donates the appropriate amount to the organization for climate change projects and promoting renewable energy.



ness operations are conducted by a full-time Executive Director. The committee meets twice a year, and is comprised of a maximum of seven seats, six of which are currently filled by Marion Hammerl (President), Prof. Dr. Manfred Niekisch (Vice President), Jörg Dürr-Pucher, Prof. Dr. Harald Kächele, Dr. Andrew Venter und Sebastian Winkler. GNF's **Scientific Advisory Board** consists of several international experts who are consulted

for technical expertise where necessary. The following individuals are present members of the board on a voluntary basis: Roger de Freitas, Great Britain; Dr. Hendrik Hoeck, Switzerland; Prof. Dr. Masahisa Nakamura, Japan; John Pinder, Great Britain; Dr. Antonio Gómez Reyna, Mexico; Dr. Tillmann Stottele, Germany; Prof. Dr. Michael Succow, Germany.

➤ The team of the Global Nature Fund in Radolfzell (left), in Bonn (top right) und in Berlin (down-right).

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Finances and Administration

A stable finance base and an effective working administration secures our future projects. Allocations from public and private institutions account for the majority of our financial income. However, there is always something left that we need to finance on our own. This portion is usually financed through private donations and support from the business sector, which makes their contributions very significant.



Fundraising

The financial sources we use for our project work does not pour forth on its own. In the last few years, it has become increasingly difficult to secure donations, sponsorships, and funding groups. Projects that are financed with public grants are often not to be realized without the support of our donors, who help us reach the necessary own contribution that a relatively small foundation would not be able to generate otherwise.

Our revenues consist mostly of project approvals from public institutions such as the EU and the Federal Ministries. In second place, grants come from foundations and companies, and in third place, there are private donation contributions. The decrease of available free funds often presents us with large challenges as we are not a capital-based foundation. A tendency of maintaining a precise appropriation of funds adds to this difficulty of moving free funds to a

» In the year 2015 the topics in our mailings were Protection of Lake Schwerin and its biodiversity in the framework of the Network Living Lakes Germany, a project to save the Jordan River through transnational integrated water management, a project that aims at the peaceful coexistence of lions and herdsmen in Tanzania.





small project or to reallocate other urgent project expenses. We thank all donors who answer our appeal for donations and support our work. Every member in our circle of donors and every not earmarked donation helps us to achieve our goals as well.

Other valuable ways of supporting the GNF are provided by tax-reduced endowments to the foundation's capital or a bequest in a will that is free of inheritance tax. The GNF's last will and testament advisor can help avoid any mistake in formulating a last will. With endowments starting at 20,000 Euros, the benefactor can decide whether he or she would like to be an active participant in the Founders Committee. Such contributions are also tax deductible. The "Living Lakes" project savings bond that is affiliated with the GLS Bank generates an above average rate of interest and helps finance projects in the Living Lakes Network. Lastly, the investor can decide if they would like to donate the interest or if they would rather entrust the invested capital till the expiration of contract with the GNF.

Use of Funds

The Global Nature Fund has structured its project work in four focal areas: Living Lakes & Water, Nature Conservation, Sustainable Development & Development Cooperation, and Businesses & Biodiversity. Statutory functions of the GNF also include Environmental Education & Communica-

tions Work. There are currently 105 international lake participants who are active and networked in the Living Lakes Network. This includes national and multinational networks such as the Network Living Lakes Germany. The Businesses & Biodiversity branch, which is coordinated through the Bonn office, initiates and realizes projects for preserving biodiversity together with interested businesses. The Conservation branch encompasses exciting conservation projects and maintaining of traditional cultural landscapes. Currently, there are 14 members of our staff employed in our offices in Radolfzell, Bonn, and Berlin. These qualified and engaged members of our staff include biologists, geologists, agricultural scientists, and administrative professionals. The GNF also offers internships and training positions to provide young professionals with their first career experiences. Finally, the GNF is a certified service station for participants in the German Federal Volunteer Service.

Disclosure and Transparency

We attach great importance to transparency. This is why our annual reports do not only present the last years' achievements, but also point out the annual figures. The balance sheet and profit and loss account are depicted in detail. Fundraising and use of funds are illustrated. The report is sent to all donors, supporters, and project partners. Additionally, both the annual financial statement and the foundation's statutes are available for download on our website.

Our projects are financed from different sources. Private donors, public institutions and the private sector are contributing financially to our successes.

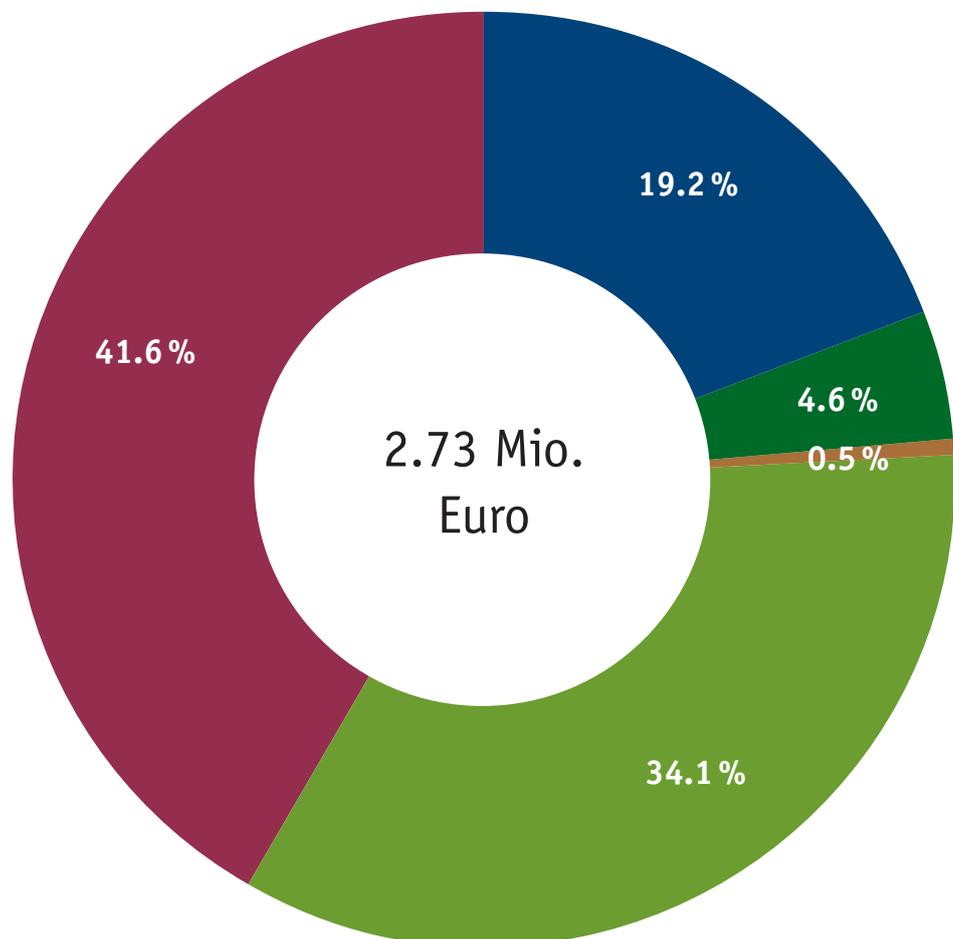
Presentation of Annual Accounts

The Global Nature Fund's financial information is published in the form of a balance sheet that is in accordance with the Commercial Code of the Berlin Foundation Law. Revenues and outlays

for the fiscal years are presented in a profit-loss calculation. This yearly calculation is audited by a chartered accountant and is then presented to the financial authorities. The balance sheet totals

Budget 2015 – Revenues in Euro

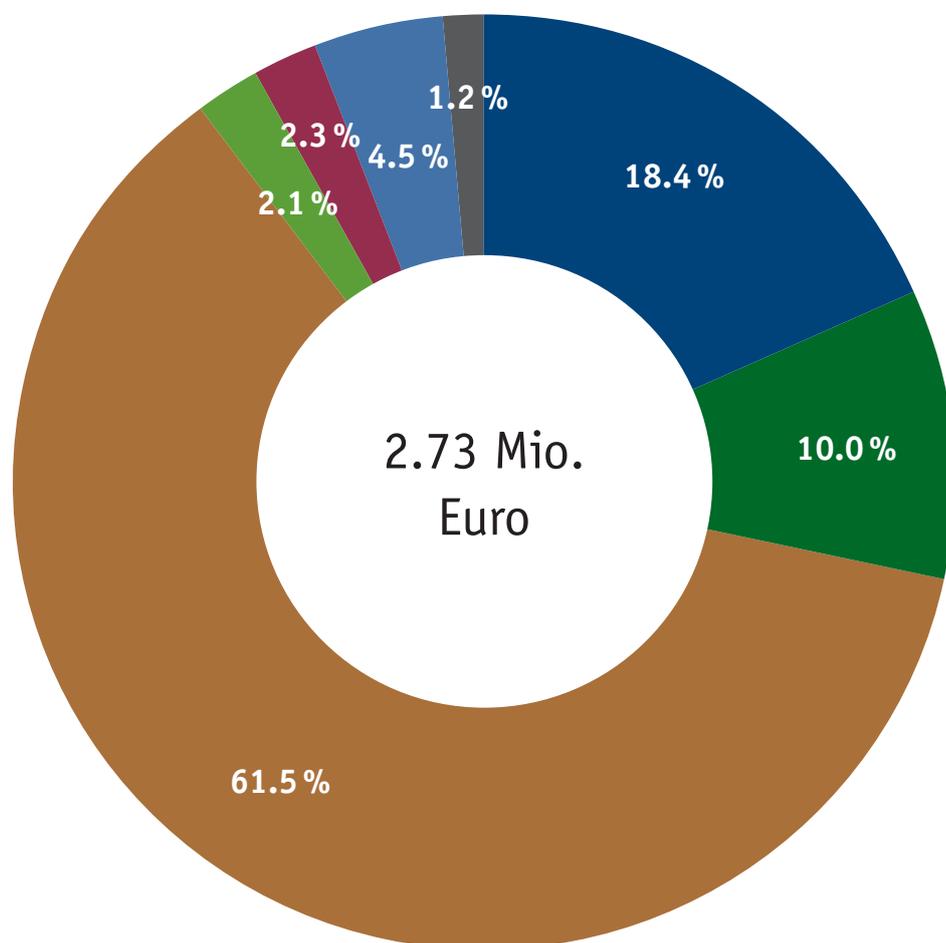
Donations	525.208,72
Sponsorship	125.129,11
Interest, allocation of fines and other income	13.686,78
Consumption of donations, allowances of pre-accounting year	932.735,41
Project allowances	1.135.867,67
Total	2.732.627,69



for the 2015 fiscal year came to 2,149,022.05 Euro (previous year 3,605,030.74 Euro). There was an injection of free reserves in the amount of 33,082.63 Euro (previous year 17,669.80 Euro). These reserves from December 31, 2015 amounted to 351,580.01 Euro (previous year 318,497.38 Euro). The foundation's capital stayed at 417,638.04 Euro.

Budget 2015 – Expenses in Euro

Living Lakes & Water	503.421,76
Business & Biodiversity	273.377,35
Sustainable Development & Development Cooperation	1.679.183,05
Nature Conservation & Environmental Education	57.961,98
Fundraising & Public Relations	62.444,38
General Administration	123.156,54
Appropriation to Free Reserves	33.082,63
Total	2.732.627,69



Global Nature Fund, 78315 Radolfzell, Germany
Profit and Loss Account from 1 January to 31 December 2015

Revenues from statutable activities	€
1. Donations and Allowances	
a) Donations and Allowances in general	
Donations accrued in accounting year	236,818.72
Consumption of donations accrued in pre-accounting year	0.00
Not yet realized donations in accounting year	0.00
Longer term donations and allowances	796.17
Revenue from consumption of donations in accounting year	236,022.55
b) Donations and Allowances earmarked	
Donations accrued in accounting year	1,550,182.95
Consumption of donations accrued in pre-accounting year	373,559.37
Not yet realized donations in accounting year	325,811.50
Consumption of received instalments in pre-accounting year	1,553,942.29
Not yet realized instalments in accounting year	668,954.75
Revenue from consumption of donations in accounting year	2,482,918.36
c) Allocation of monetary fines	300.00
d) Legacies	0.00
2. Other Income and revenues	
a) Interest and other yield on assets	6,972.67
b) Other Revenues	6,414.11
Total Revenues	2,732,627.69
 Expenditures from statutable activities	 €
Project Expenses	1,920,279.02
Personnel Expenses	495,396.55
Social security contributions and pension fund	102,746.32
Other expenditures	
Business operation expenses (Administration)	100,723.90
Fundraising and Public Relation	77,192.24
Interest and similar expenditures	117.81
Depreciation	3,089.22
Total Expenditures	2,699,545.06
Annual Profit/Loss before application of funds	33,082.63
Appropriation to/withdrawal from free reserves	-33,082.63
	0.00

Auditing according to § 316 ff HGB by chartered accountant Dr. Herberger GmbH, Konstanz.

Global Nature Fund, 78315 Radolfzell, Germany

Balance Sheet per 31 December 2015

AKTIVA		PASSIVA	
	31.12.2015 €	31.12.2015 €	previous year €
A. Fixed Assets			
I. Tangible Assets			
- Furniture and Office Equipment	796.17		1837.88
II. Financial Assets			
- Investment	306.78		306.78
B. Current Assets			
I. Stocks			
- Projects in process	631,868.60		1,650,861.94
II. Receivables and other assets			
- Accounts receivable (suppliers and services)	80,563.48		4,990.70
- Receivables from EU	59,269.43		0.00
- Other receivables	23,790.69		307,328.63
	163,623.60		312,319.33
III. Cash and current bank accounts			
- Cash in hand	568.86		54.94
- Bank accounts	993,017.01		738,391.48
- Fixed term deposit	298,838.06		833,668.76
	1,292,423.93		1,572,115.18
C. Accrued Items	60,002.97		67,589.63
Total of Activa/Assets	2,149,022.05		3,605,030.74
A. Equity Capital			
I. Foundation Capital			
- Seed Capital	86,919.62		86,919.62
- Increase in Capital	330,718.42		330,718.42
	417,638.04		417,638.04
II. Reserves			
Free Reserves			
- Balance carried forward on 01.01.2015	318,497.38		300,827.58
- Appropriation to reserves	33,082.63		17,669.80
- Balance 31.12.2015	351,580.01		318,497.38
B. Not yet realized donations and allowances			
- Not yet realized donations and allowances	0.00		0.00
- Longer term donations and allowances	796.17		0.00
	796.17		0.00
C. Provisions			
- Provisions for Pension Fund and similar obligations	0.00		0.00
- Other Provisions	33,989.11		34,784.16
	33,989.11		34,784.16
D. Liabilities			
- Received Payments for projects	668,954.75		1,553,942.29
- Liabilities to supplier and services	331,812.99		889,573.51
- Liabilities from not yet realized earmarked donations and allowances	325,811.50		373,559.37
- Other Liabilities (salaries, social security contributions, similar)	18,439.48		17,035.99
	1,345,018.72		2,834,111.16
Total of Passiva/Liabilities	2,149,022.05		3,605,030.74



Marion Hammer, President

Auditing according to § 316 ff HGB by chartered accountant Dr. Herberger GmbH, Konstanz.

Cooperative Partnerships

For a foundation engaged in projects across the world, global networking plays a decisive role for the Global Nature Fund. Cooperation on national and international levels are essential for our work's success. In addition to cooperation with public agencies and private institutions, partnerships with the business community are very meaningful for our project work.



Cooperative Projects with Business

In 2012, the GNF started a joint-action with the Alfred Kärcher GmbH & Co. KG company for "Clean Water for the World". Within the framework of the campaign, cost efficient and environmentally effective constructed wetlands or green filters were built to improve the wastewater problems in developing and less-developed countries. The first green filter in Colombia was awarded an environmental prize in 2015 after being constructed as a pilot project in 2013. Additional green filters started operating in Colombia, South Africa, and in the Philippines. The "Drinking Water for Africa" project is supported by the Austrian branch of the Alfred Kärcher GmbH. Since the founding of the Living Lakes Network in 1998, the Daimler AG has supported the GNF by protecting our water resources around the world. Currently, the focus for support lies with mangrove conservation in Asia. The Swiss Sika AG company has supported the GNF's project work since 2005. In the year 2015, they funded drinking water projects in Africa, tourism projects in Hovsgol National Park, and green filters in the Philippines and in South Africa. Together with the Japanese company Sekisui Chemical, the GNF organized the "Sekisui European Children's Eco Summit" at Lake Constance, Germany, in the summer of 2015. 26 youth from seven European countries had the time and opportunity to formulate their presentations on environmental protection to the company leaders. Sekisui and the GNF have been cooperating since 2012 under the framework of the theme biodiver-

sity in quality and environmental management. At their company locations in Europe, biodiversity-checks and corresponding measures are being implemented. At the beginning of 2015, the GLS Bank put out a brochure covering their "Project Savings Bonds Living Lakes". The Network Living Lakes Germany has also been supported by the European Meopta company – a binocular and scope manufacturer – since 2015. Within the framework of the "Biodiversity in the Food Industry" project, the REWE Group has been supporting and funding the implementation of measures until 2015. Since 2014, a strategic partnership has existed between the GNF and the Symrise AG in which a corporate biodiversity strategy has been developed and implemented. In doing so, aspects such as the sustainable sourcing of natural resources, the greening of company premises, and the sensitizing of employees to biodiversity issues are being factored into the company's operational strategy. The Real Group GmbH is engaging in responsible practices and organic farming in their interaction with nature within the "Permaculture" branch of their company. Their cooperation with the GNF in their vegetable and fruit branch was established in the beginning of 2016.

International Cooperation Partners and Private Funders

The Siemens Foundation and the Osram AG are the central partners in our "Water-Energy Hubs for Kenya – Solar Energy for Rural Kenya" project. The football club Hannover 96 and the Rote Kurve – 96



Supporters Club have engaged in the “Drinking Cups for Drinking Water” campaign that started in 2009 supporting drinking water projects in Africa. In the sixth season now, the support and excitement of soccer fans and volunteers remains unchanged as before. In South America, the GNF is also active in securing clean drinking water for people in rural areas. Financial support of the Wilo-Foundation has been directed to construct a water purification plant in Colombia. The Anton & Petra Ehrmann Foundation has been supporting the Network Living Lakes Germany till 2015. The Heinz Sielmann Foundation supports the GNF in their European Business & Biodiversity Campaign activities. The Foundation Ursula Merz has sup-

ported the GNF’s international project work in various branches for many years. Monies from the Hand in Hand-Fund by the Environmental Action Germany and Rapunzel Naturkost are also available for the GNF and are currently being used to support the Human-Wildlife-Conflict project in Tanzania.

Cooperation with Public Institutions

The European Union is currently funding two projects under the framework of the Erasmus+ Program. The “European Partnership for Biodiversity Protection in Viticulture” project is being implemented in four countries. Our “Citizens for Energy Transition” project includes six countries

⚡ Since its foundation, the Global Nature Fund has been committed to cooperation instead of confrontation.

🙏 Thanks to the support of our sponsors, we are able to carry out the numerous projects for the preservation of our environment.



within Europe. The “All across the Jordan: Trans-boundary Master Planning of the Lower Jordan River Basin” project that falls under the framework of the EU’s SWIM Program (Sustainable Water Integrated Management) was completed in 2015. Another project under the framework on the EU’s EuropeAid Program was funded in the Hovsgol National Park in Mongolia. Numerous projects are funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB). Several of the projects receive financing from the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). The BfN also funds the “Experience Nature for the Blind and Visually Impaired” project with their limited edition postage stamps. The German Federal Environment Agency (UBA) also supports our projects together with the BMUB. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) funds our “Green Filters in Colombia” and our “Conservation of Biodiversity and Traditional Cultures in the Mbaracayu Biosphere Reserve through Sustainable Forestry Management” in Paraguay projects. We also receive financial support for our “Mangrove Restoration in Asia” project. The German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU) funds implementation under the framework of our

“Biodiversity in Camping Grounds in Germany” project. Both our “Wildlife Conservation at Mount Kilimanjaro: Fighting Poaching and Illegal Trade in the Kenyan-Tanzanian Border Area” and our “Project Rhino: Fight against illegal poaching in South Africa” projects are supported through the German Association for International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit – GIZ) under contract with the BMZ and the BMUB. The GIZ also supports our cross-border “Biodiversity in the Caribbean” project.

Partnerships

For years there have been close cooperations between the Secretariat from the Ramsar Convention for the Conservation of Wetlands and the UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species UNEP/CMS. In Thailand, we are cooperating with the Biodiversity-Based Economy Development Office (BEDO) and in Germany, the Environmental Action Germany (DUH) has stood by us as a partner for many years. Under the framework of the “Earth Overshoot Day”, we are cooperating with the internationally active Global Footprint Network and we are also active in the FAO (UN Food and Agriculture Organization) Sustainable Food Systems Program (SFS).

✍ In the Living Lakes network, more than 130 nature and environmental protection organizations are working to maintain 105 lakes on all continents.

Living Lakes



Partner Organizations in Projects



Action pour le Développement et l'Encadrement Rural (ADER)
www.globalnature.org/trinkbecher



Adelphi
www.adelphi.de



African Wildlife Foundation
www.awf.org



ALTOP Verlags- und Vertriebsgesellschaft für umweltfreundliche Produkte mbH
www.eco-world.de



ADVID – Associação para o Desenvolvimento da Viticultura Duriense
www.advid.pt



ARISU GmbH
www.arisu-gmbh.com



Baikal Information Centre GRAN
www.baikalgran.ru



Biodiversity-Based Economy Development Office (BEDO)
www.bedo.or.th



'Biodiversity in Good Company' Initiative e. V.
www.business-and-biodiversity.de



Biodiversity Partnership Mesoamerica (BPM)
www.bpmesoamerica.org



Bodensee-Stiftung
www.bodensee-stiftung.org



Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem (BGBM)
www.bgbm.org



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Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND), Nature Conservation Centre Möggingen
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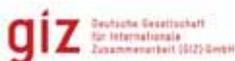
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www.bund-mv.de



Centre for Research on New International Economic Order (CReNIEO)
www.crenieo.org



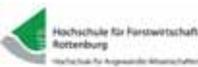
Corazón de la Tierra
www.corazondelatierra.org.mx



Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
www.giz.de



Environmental Action Germany (DUH)
www.duh.de

	dokeo GmbH www.dokeo.de
	Društvo Za Oblikovanje Odrzivog Razvoja (DOOR) www.door.hr/wordpress
	EcoPeace Middle East www.foeme.org
	Ecocamping e.V. www.ecocamping.net
	Ecotrans – European Network for Sustainable Tourism Development www.ecotrans.org
	Ecotrópica www.ecotropica.org.br
	EcoVin – German Federal Association of Organic Viticulture www.ecovin.de
	EMACE Foundation of Sri Lanka www.emacesrilanka.com
	Energies 2050 www.energies2050.org
	Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT) www.fact.org.kh
	FORWAC – Friends of Rural Women and Children Kenya www.forwac.org
	Freie Universität Berlin www.fu-berlin.de
	Friends of the Seven Lakes Foundation http://friends7lakes.org
	Fundación Global Nature (FGN) www.fundacionglobalnature.org
	Fundación Humedales www.fundacionhumedales.org
	Fundación Moisés Bertoni (FMB) www.mbertoni.org.py
	Habitat for Humanity www.hfhd.de
	Heinz Sielmann Stiftung www.sielmann-stiftung.de
	University of Applied Forest Sciences Rottenburg (HFR) www.hs-rottenburg.de



Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW)
www.ioew.de



La Unió de L'auradors i Ramaders
www.launio.org und www.farmersunion.eu



Le Centre Urbain – Stadswinkel
www.centreurbain.be



Light for Life Kenya
www.globalnature.org/solar-kenia



Mangrove Action Project (MAP)
http://mangroveactionproject.org



Molise verso il 2000 scrl
www.moliseversoil2000.it



Mongol Ecology Center (MEC)
www.mongolec.org



Nagenahiru Foundation – Center for Conservation of Lakes and Wetlands
www.nagenahiru.org



natur – Das Magazin für Natur, Umwelt und besseres Leben
www.natur.de



Naturschutzstation Zippendorf e.V.
www.naturschutzstation-schwerin.de



Öko-Institut e.V. – Institute for Applied Ecology
www.oeko.de



OroVerde – Die Tropenwaldstiftung
www.regenwald-schuetzen.org



OSIENALA (Friends of Lake Victoria)
www.osienala.org



PureFlow
www.pureflow.co.ke



Quercus – Associação nacional de Conservação da natureza
www.quercus.pt



Rapunzel Organik Tarım Ürünleri ve Gıda Tic. Ltd. Sti.
www.rapunzel.com.tr



Regulus Vision
www.globalnature.org/lions-for-sale



Regionales Umweltbildungszentrum Steinhuder Meer (RUZ)
www.oessm.org/angebote/ruz



Society for the Protection of Philippine Wetlands (scpw)
www.psdn.org.ph/wetlands



SOLWODI e.V.
www.solwodi.de



Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)
www.siwi.org



Thames Electricals Ltd. Kenya
www.globalnature.org/solar-kenia



Trebag Vagyon – Es Projektmenedzser KFT
www.trebag.hu



Union for Ethical Biotrade (UEBT)
www.ethicalbiotrade.org



Water and Environmental Development Organization (WEDO)
http://wedo-pal.org



Wildlands Conservation Trust
www.wildlands.co.za



Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig (ZFMK)
www.zfmk.de

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