

Newsletter Topics

1st Quarter 2017

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Preface

Dear Readers,

as every year in the context of UNESCO World Wetlands Day on 2nd February, we nominate the "Threatened Lake of the Year". This time it is Lake Tanganyika, which is located in the Great Rift Valley in Eastern Africa and is surrounded by four neighboring countries. It is the second deepest and second largest lake on earth. Thanks to our partners in Burundi, the organization Biraturaba with its manager Emmanuel Nshimirimana, we were able to establish better contacts within that region during the last five years and intensify them due to two joint projects we were able to implement. Now we want to focus on the challenges at this unique lake and continue with the realization of sustainable measures in order to improve



livelihood and conserve biodiversity. Not only the new year has started, but also new project plans of GNF are showing up. Together with 12 organisations we are going to make a contribution to the conservation and sustainable development of karst regions in the Danube basin during the next two years. Our projects in the field of mangrove conservation will also continue for the next three years. In Sri Lanka and India more measures are going to be implemented in close cooperation with four project partners. In the Caribbean region we are strengthening and expanding our commitment to sustainable tourism and conservation of biological diversity in the Dominican

Republic, Haiti and Honduras.

Our four successfully implemented Green Filter projects in Colombia are forming the base for the realization of more treatment plants, not only in Colombia but also in Mexico, Paraguay and Nicaragua. A lot of interesting tasks are awaiting our team this year. With the trustful cooperations we built up together with our partners in the project regions and the support of our sponsors, a lot of projects and measures can be successfully implemented.

Kind regards – Your GNF team

The kids of Lake Tanganyika want to have a future!

The source of life of more than 10 million people is threatened

About 1.5 million people are dying due to polluted water every year. This led to the United Nations recognizing the access to clean water as a Human Right in the year 2010. But especially in rural areas in Africa, like the region around Lake Tanganyika, the conditions to secure this right are really bad.

The inhabitants of countries bordering Lake Tanganyika are suffering from droughts, hunger and polluted drinking water. This is mainly caused by climate change, massive population growth and bad hygienic conditions. In the village of Gitaza, which is located at the Burundian

shore of Lake Tanganyika, no operating infrastructure to provide drinking water can be found. The inhabitants, especially small children, are suffering from the lack of clean drinking water and illnesses like diarrhea caused by polluted lake water.

Safeguard clean drinking water

We want to provide clean drinking water to 800 households as well as to 2,800 pupils and a health care center. This will be realized by water treatment plants and an effective infrastructure in the community of Gitaza. Educational measures



...further information on the next page

accompany the infrastructural steps and will help the people to decrease pollution in the lake. The shores shall be cleaned up and the sewage can be treated, e.g. with Green Filters. Trees grown in domestic nurseries and planted around the lake will help the shores being protected from erosion.

Create alternative income sources
Every tenth inhabitant of Tanganyika basin depends on the lake. 100,000 fishermen are subsisting on fishing. But overfishing leads to a dramatic decrease in the amount of fish caught. In Burundi, the return of fish was reduced by 25 percent. We want to provide new

income sources to fishermen's families, especially to the women, and therefore reduce overfishing in the lake. (MU)



A future for the people living at the lake!

With your help we are going to implement:

- Water treatment plants to provide clean drinking water
- Infrastructure for drinking water that serves all inhabitants
- Information about water quality and hygiene
- Restoring the shores
- Alternative income sources for fishermen's families

Help the people at Lake Tanganyika.

Being a Living Lakes sponsor supports people and nature!



The water quality, the human health and the biodiversity are threatened through the intensive use.

Please help the people at Lake Tanganyika

GLS-Gemeinschaftsbank Bochum

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Natural sewage cleaning Green Filters are arising

Colombia is a rich country: it provides a lot of resources and a rich biodiversity. But a shortage of clean water, the extinction of many species and intensification of agriculture are threatening long-term existence of different ecosystems, Andean biomes and the general sustainability of the country.

With this background and due to their commitment to lakes and water as a member of Living Lakes network, Fundación Humedales executed a 28 months lasting sewage treatment project. It was completed in December 2016 with the finalization and opening of three Green Filters at Lake Tota and Laguna Fúquene. Green Filters are a solution for sewage treatment that is cheap, easy to handle and adequate proven in rural areas. The filters are removing more than 95 % of organic pollution, eliminate smells and create natural environments. Their implementation fosters consciousness about the importance of water and its treatment within the community. The implementation of the three new Green Filters in Susa (3,500 m²), Cuítiva

(900 m²) and Fúquene (1,240 m²) creates the capacity to clean more than 135,000 cubic meters of sewage per year. The water moves slowly through canals that are planted with swimming macrophytes. Their roots together with bacteria in the water are extracting organic material and other nutrients from sewage and use it for their own growth. Depending on climatic conditions, the sewage is cleaned and can be introduced to natural bodies of water or used for irrigation afterwards. More than 1,500 inhabitants in the rural Andean region profit from the three new Green Filters.

Based on the successful experience in Colombia, created know-how and the gained insights, GNF and five local partners started a new sewage treatment project. As the technology is easy to transfer, two new Green Filters will be built in Mexico by the organizations Corazón de la Tierra and Fundación Cuenca Lerma-Lago Chapala. In a village in rural Nicaragua, FUNDAR is executing the construction of a Green Filter. Three small filters are built in Paraguay by the Fundación Moisés Ber-

toni. Pupils and teachers of three schools are the beneficiaries. Also in Colombia, another Green Filter will be constructed by Fundación Humedales. The project, which lasts until December 2018, will play a key role in the question of water treatment in rural Latin and Central America. It is also a great opportunity for members of Living Lakes network Latin America and Caribbean to work together closely. In December 2016, a kick-off meeting with the participation of project managers of all five organizations took place in Colombia.

The project is funded by Kärcher GmbH & Co. KG and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). (JPS)

www.globalnature.org/green-filter-south-america

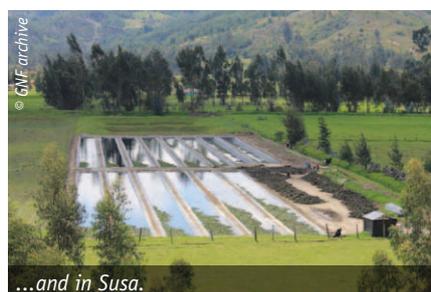


Stiftung Ursula Merz

KÄRCHER



Full operational filter in Cuítiva...



...and in Susa.



Kick off meeting in Colombia

1st Living Lakes Sustainability Leadership Journey First Event in South Africa

“Sustainability from the Inside Out” was the motto of the first event of this type in December 2016 in South Africa, where 50 members of Living Lakes network partner organizations participated. The participants had the chance to exchange and learn from each other during their week at Lake St. Lucia. Additionally, they got to know interesting examples of practical biodiversity projects during their excursions. The goal of this Living Lakes workshop was to prepare younger members of environmental organizations for their leadership tasks and catch up and develop their ideas and concepts of sustainable development. Intergenerational learning formed an essential part of the joint days within

the protected area of iSimangaliso. Every afternoon, eight participants had the chance to present their personal experience to the group. These contributions allowed the others to gain a broad insight into the work and priorities of the participating partner organizations of the Living Lakes network. The daily work of environmental organizations results in a lot of demands, e.g. caused by cooperating with civil society, governmental organizations and private enterprises. To be able to cope better with this, four workshops addressing concrete questions were held. The topics people and environment, social entrepreneurship, learning from nature and leadership and learning were focused.

The event was supporting exchange between participants and deepened the yet very close relations between the Living Lakes partners even more. To finish with the week, it was discussed if the “journey of Living Lakes Leadership” will be continued – and if yes, when and at which of the many partner lakes of the network.

The event in South Africa was organized by Wildlands and Global Nature Fund. Our thanks go to the WILO-Foundation that supported us financially. (UG)

wilo
foundation



The participants of the Leadership Journey



Wild animals on the edge of the trail



On a field trip

Natural Capital Markets are advancing New developments in standardization and application

The Global Nature Fund shows with its project “Network Natural Capital” how companies can identify risks and chances of the use of natural goods and services, how they can implement them into their decision making and why they should do it.

Networking and information

In February, the GNF was organizing a networking event for 25 representatives from science, economy and politics. They got to know examples of the practical application of Natural Capital Markets in the construction sector, at Coca Cola and at the Otto Group. The participants determined in an exercise Natural Capital Costs for a company located in the coffee sector.

Natural Capital in practice

Right now, the GNF is executing two pilot studies regarding Natural Capital Markets

together with German companies in the sectors of construction and tourism. The process and results are being published by GNF until March 2017. The presentation of temporary results created a lot of interest during the international Natural Capital Conference in Den Haag in November 2016. To make the use and possibilities of application easier to understand, GNF is presenting other publications in addition to the pilot studies during these weeks.

Two ISO norms are linking Natural Capital Markets with Environmental Management

The growing importance of that topic is also reflected in the attempts to standardize Natural Capital Markets. In addition to the international valid Natural Capital Protocol, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is working on two norms to assess impacts on the en-

vironment. These norms will also provide guidelines to link Natural Capital Markets to existing Environmental Management Systems. (AP)

www.ncmv.org



Case study exercise about Natural Capital Markets in the coffee sector

 Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation,
Building and Nuclear Safety

 Umwelt
Bundesamt

News

Publications and Online Information

New guideline "EMAS and Biodiversity: How to address biodiversity protection through environmental management systems"

The aim of this guideline is to encourage and enable EMAS registered businesses and other organizations to integrate the complex protection of biological diversity in their environmental management on a step-by-step basis in order to continuously and systematically reduce any negative effects they may be causing. The guideline is complementing the EMAS indicators for management and reporting by showing activities and their potential impact on biodiversity as well as proposing examples for indicators and indices. The hints presented in the guideline not only serve EMAS, but also all other environmental management systems. This guideline is published by Lake Constance Foundation and Global Nature Fund, both partners of the European Business and Biodiversity campaign. The European commission welcomes the work of both organizations and supported the work on the guideline content-wise. This publication is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety. Download: www.globalnature.org/en/publications/emas-guidance



Handbook: Filtros Verdes – Agua limpia para Colombia

This handbook in English and Spanish documents the basics and details about Green Filters. Our Colombian partners, the Fundación Humedales, are presenting very illustratively the different parts of the filters in full detail. Download: www.globalnature.org/Publications



Events

Spring 2017

1 June 2017

Beauty of Sourcing with Respect 2017 - Sourcing and innovation for people and biodiversity

Paris, France

<http://ethicalbiotrade.org/beauty-of-sourcing-with-respect-2017>

1 - 2 June 2017

Sustainable Foods Summit

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

www.sustainablefoodssummit.com

20 - 22 June 2017

World Green Infrastructure Congress - Designing with Nature

Berlin, Germany

www.wgic2017berlin.com

GNF at 

Visit us at Facebook and tell us your opinion!

www.facebook.com/globalnature.org

New EU LIFE Project – New website

In the framework of our European project "Biodiversity Criteria in Standards and Labels for the Food Industry" we completely revised our website. At the very moment, information in English and German regarding our new project and the European Business and Biodiversity Campaign (also coordinated by GNF) can be found. This project is funded by EU LIFE programme. www.businessbiodiversity.eu



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