

# GNF Newsletter

Living Lakes - Lebendige Seen - Lagos Vivos - Живые озера

## Preface

The protection of the environment requires rolemodels: pioneers with vision, a radiating personality and active engagement. The Living Lakes Network can deem itself lucky to have in its ranks numerous such tireless fighters for the protection of the most important lakes in the world. The extensive prestigious prizes won by our conservationists over the past months highlight this fact.

The Yves Rocher Foundation distinguished Marion Hammerl, director of the Lake Constance Foundation and president of GNF, with Trophee de Femme. Lal Emmanuel from our partner organisation Nagenahiru Foundation in Sri Lanka was awarded shortly afterwards the One World Award and just a few days ago TIME Magazine honoured the Israeli, Palastine and Jordanian directors of Friends of the Earth Middle East Gidon Bromberg, Nader Al-Khateeb und Munqeth Mehyar by naming them "Heroes of the Environment" for their contribution to peace and the environment in the valley of Jordan. GNF cordially congratulates all laureates.

  
Stefan Hörmann  
Project Manager

## 12th Living Lakes Conference

From 22 to 26 of September about 200 conservationists from 30 countries, all active in the field of lake and wetland protection, met at Trasimeno Lake in Italy. The cultural importance of lakes was introduced and strategies on how cultural and spiritual traditions can contribute to the protection of lakes were discussed.

In Europe 50 % of wetlands are endangered due to increased water consumption, stated Beate Jessel, the president of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation in the conference opening. This is an alarming fact, as two thirds of all wetlands in Europe already disappeared during the last century.

## Trasimeno Statement

The continuing worldwide destruction of lakes and wetlands can only be stopped through the combined efforts of politics, science and society. Cultural values and the importance of water bodies play a crucial role. Due to their historical, spiritual and aesthetic characteristics, lakes and their catchment areas are extremely important for the culture and future of mankind. The severe environmental problems caused over centuries by incorrect management of lakes and the aftermath of climate change must be addressed urgently. At the end of the 12th Living Lakes Conference the participants stated this in the Trasimeno Statement.

The complete Trasimeno Statement has been posted on the GNF's website:

[www.globalnature.org/12LL-Conference](http://www.globalnature.org/12LL-Conference)

# 3/2008

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## New Lake Candidate from Uruguay

At the conference, Laguna de Rocha, the 55th member of the international Living Lakes Network was accepted as a new candidate. The 7,200 ha large lake situated in Uruguay is an important nature reserve for birds and shares the problem of many other lakes globally. Amongst other things, the relatively shallow lake suffers from lack of water, pollution and over-fertilisation.

## Living Lakes Academy

During the conference the initiative of founding a Living Lakes Academy was presented to the public - a collective project of the region Umbrien, the province Perugia, the association of the local governments of Comunità Montana, Trasimeno-Teveré and the Italian organization for the protection of the environment Legambiente in collaboration with Living Lakes and GNF. The academy shall form an intersection between science and practical applications in lake protection. The main focus of the programmes and training courses will be the implementation of research results, innovative environmental technologies and management methods.

## Gerhard Thielcke-Conservation Award

On the 26 September 2008 the prize, formerly called "Best Practice-Conservation Award", was personally handed over by Helga Thielcke to the winners who were nominated for their accomplishments in nature and lake protection: Piero Bruni, founder of Associazione Lago di Bolsena, Alcide Calderoni for his research at Lake Orta in Piemont, Guido Prola, a renowned author of many publications in environmental education and Comitato delle Colline Moreniche for their successful contribution against the destruction of Lake Garda's historical shoreline. Also the deceased Mario Pedini, a former Member of Parliament and Minister was honoured for his efforts in the protection of Lago di Garda. The president of Comunità del Garda, Aventino Frau accepted the award.

## Help for Nature and Man at Pulicat Lagoon

In the East Indian Pulicat Lake, freshwater mingles with sea water providing ideal conditions for a unique animal and plant world. Over 100 fish species, many reptiles and sea turtles occur in

the lagoon. The endangered Olive Ridley Turtle lays eggs on the shores of Lake Pulicat. The lake has been a source of food and drinking water for the people of the lake region. Toxic effluents and building projects threaten this breathtaking nature and the existence of man around the lake. Mangrove trees are cut down and wetlands disappear resulting in a diminished fish catch.

Our experienced Living Lakes Partner CRENIEO teaches school children, teachers, women and fishermen about environmental issues. Environmental education programmes offer new income sources (e.g. nature ranger). Tree nurseries and planting of mangroves contribute to the creation of new habitats and long term flood protection. To upgrade nutritional and hygiene situations in villages the supply of drinking water is improved, water canals are cleaned, soakways and green filters for wastewater treatment are constructed. Poor families need to be supported in handling their cows more efficiently so that they are able to provide a more balanced diet for their children.



*Planting of mangrove trees by participants from GNF's Nature Summer Camp together with local villagers.*

If you would like to support this project through a donations:

GNF, Account No. 804041 6000 at the GLS-Bank, Bank Code 430 609 67.

## World Heritage Site Lake Tengiz

The conservation areas Tengiz-Korgalzhyn and Naurzum were declared UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Lake Tengiz, situated in the heart of the World Heritage Site, has been a Living Lakes Member since 2000. The GNF congratulates its local Living Lakes Partner and Nabu Germany for initiating the nomination process together with further Kazakh and international organisations

in 2000. The area is home to the Saiga Antelope and Steppe Wolf. The region is also an important home and resting place for millions of migratory birds such as the Lesser White-fronted Goose and the Siberian Crane.

Especially Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region is threatened. Kazakhstan's capitol Astana is expanding rapidly and with it, the demand for drinking water. Furthermore plans to divert sewage into the lake exist. The appointment to a World Heritage Site should help protect these unique ecosystems.

## Founding of Living Lakes Las Americas

Our partner organisations from South and Central America joined to form the regional network Living Lakes Las Americas. Hereby the GNF supports the Latin American lake conservationists as coordinators and consultants. The Inter-American Development Bank is assisting the network. Concrete projects are being realised at all lakes. These include the promotion of sustainable tourism, for example through information centres and eco-tourist guides.

The representatives of Lake Titicaca (Bolivia & Peru), Lake Fuquene (Columbia), Chapala (Mexico), Pantanal (Brazil), Atitlán (Guatemala), Mar Chiquita (Argentina) and the foundation FUNGAP in Costa Rica belong to the network. FUNGAP was set up by RAMSAR, the international convention for the protection of wetlands, and supervises over 80 organisations in South America, all active in the protection of lakes and development aid.

## C&A donates for Living Lakes

Recently GNF was able to enter a donation for the Living Lakes Project from the well-known fashion department store C&A in its books. Hereby C&A can broaden its environmental engagement in several different areas, especially the increased use of organic cotton for their range of products. For over 10 years C&A has worked with the German Environmental Aid (DUH) which has benefitted the DUH project "Living Rivers". The GNF is striving for a long-term collaboration with C&A in the project Living Lakes. Climate protection, conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity are so vital that an active participation from

the businesses is absolutely necessary. For this reason we are pleased about C&A's readiness to place an emphasis on international environment and nature protection, thus, from this year on, joining the enterprises that have supported us over the years.

## Living Lakes Eastern Europe

After three years the first Living Lakes Eastern Europe Project with partners from Germany, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania and Poland ended in May 2008. GNF is working on the concept for a follow-up project aiming at a consolidation of content and an expansion, as well as the inclusion of further partners from other countries. The main areas of work for the partners (sustainable fisheries, nature conservation strategies, environmentally friendly tourism and sustainable land use planning) and topics, such as European Law, that are relevant to the protection of lakes, was outlined in a closing document available in English and in all languages of participating countries. We will gladly send you a CD free of charge together with the document on receipt of prepaid postage of 5 €. Individual articles are also available to download from the internet: [www.globalnature.org/Eastern-Europe-Publications](http://www.globalnature.org/Eastern-Europe-Publications)

## Briefly reported

### TIME Magazine honours Middle Eastern Partner

The renowned TIME magazine named the three directors of Friends of the Earth, Middle East "Heroes of the Environment". Gidon Bromberg, Nader Al-Khateeb and Munqeth Mehyar were distinguished for their combined engagement for peace and environment in Israel, Jordan and Palestine. Since 1994 the Living Lakes Partner FoEME campaigns for the fair use of the limited resource water. The focal points are to prevent the Dead Sea from drying out and to regenerate the Jordan River naturally.

### Lal Emmanuel received One World Award

Lal Emmanuel won the first international "One World Award". In 1991 Emmanuel founded the Nagenahiru Foundation which has been a member of the Living Lakes network since 2002. At the IFOAM World Congress on June 19, 2008 in Modena Italy, Emmanuel received the "One World Statue" and 25,000 Euro prize money. This prize is awarded every two years by the organic foods company Rapunzel Naturkost AG. Further information can be found under: [www.one-world-award.de](http://www.one-world-award.de)



*In the picture Lal Emmanuel receives the prize from former German Minister for Agriculture Renate Künast.*

### Inauguration of the "Gerhard Thielcke-Secondary School"

With glorious weather and accompanied by an open day, the inauguration of the new building and the change of name to the Gerhard Thielcke Secondary School was held on the 26 September 2008 in Radolfzell, Germany. The mayor, Dr. Jörg Schmidt, representatives of the school authority, churches and numerous honorary guests commemorated the merits of Gerhard Thielcke, co-founder of GNF, for the town of Radolfzell. With the naming of the secondary school not only were his tireless commitment to the protection of nature and the environment and his life's work honoured, but also the planned intensive collaboration between the secondary school and local environmental associations. Hereby, nature

## Jacques Rocher Visit to Lake Constance

In March 2008 Jacques Rocher, the president of the environment foundation Yves Rocher, handed the international environment prize "Trophée de Femmes" over to Marion Hammerl. To become better acquainted with our projects and to discuss the possibility of future collaborations, he and his team visited GNF at Lake Constance in September.

For the coming years Yves Rocher would like to put more effort into the protection of biodiversity and aims at involving his customers more. With the "One Million Trees" initiative Yves Rocher supports the Nobel Laureate for Peace, Wangari Maathai and the United Nations Environment Programme. With the purchase of pro-

ducts from specific cosmetic ranges one tree is planted in India or Indonesia.

During his visit to Lake Constance Jacques Rocher was especially interested in how an international network like Living Lakes functions, how the exchange of experiences between so many partners is organised and how the many excellent approaches from model projects are best distributed. On the Island of Mainau, Countess Bettina introduced the environmental programme of the tourism enterprise Insel Mainau where several events to sustainability and corporate social and ecological responsibility are planned. This is for GNF, Lake Constance Foundation and Yves Rocher an important topic and an opportunity for a joint initiative.



*Jacques Rocher visits Marion Hammerl at Lake Constance.*

and environmental themes shall be integrated into the lessons in a vivid and hands-on manner, as Gerhard Thielcke envisaged and strived for.

## GRAN among Top 100

The Living Lakes partner Baikal Information Centre "GRAN" was ranked among the top 100 ecological organisations in Russia in 2007, according to a contest which was held under the aegis of the Council of Federation and the Ecology Committee of the State Duma. The organisers made special mention of a 10-year fruitful activity of the Baikal Information Centre "GRAN" in the sphere of environmental education, particularly targeted at children and adults in schools, institutions of complementary education and public organisations.

## Monk Seal returns to Mallorca

A two-year old specimen of the highly endangered Mediterranean Monk Seal was sighted by a diver in the marine conservation area off the coast of the Balearic Islands. The protected area where fishing is severely restricted, was established due to the massive political pressure from the Balearic environmental organization Grup Balear d'Ornitologia i Defensa de la Naturalesa (GOB) and GNF. In the waters surrounding the Balearic Islands the seal has been considered to have disappeared in the fifties. The entire population is estimated at around 400 individuals to date.

## Events

### Travelling exhibition „Pantanal - a natural paradise in danger“

1 September to 30 October 2008 in the zoological garden Bernberg, Germany

1 November to 31 December 2008 in the Zoo Duisburg, Germany

### Final conference „EU Post Tsunami Project“ in Sri Lanka

17 to 21 November 2008

## Publications and Online-Resources

### 10 Years Living Lakes

The 10 years anniversary publication of the Living Lakes Network can be found as a download under [www.globalnature.org](http://www.globalnature.org)

### Current Annual Report

The GNF Annual Report 2007/2008 and the annual report 2007/2008 "Maintenance of the Cultural Landscapes" can be ordered directly from GNF and will be posted on receipt of prepaid postage of 5 €. Download versions are also available from: [www.globalnature.org](http://www.globalnature.org)

### Closing document Living Lakes Eastern Europe

We will gladly send you a CD free of charge together with the closing document including all presentations from the conference on receipt of prepaid postage of 5 €. Individual articles are also available as a download from the internet: [www.globalnature.org/Eastern-Europe-Publications](http://www.globalnature.org/Eastern-Europe-Publications)

### Conference proceedings Business and Biodiversity

The proceedings from the international Business and Biodiversity Conference, 2 - 3 April 2008, Bonn, Germany can be ordered from GNF as a CD or in paper form for a postal fee of 5 €. The 64-page volume is also available as a download from: [www.globalnature.org/bio-div](http://www.globalnature.org/bio-div)

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