



Annual Report **2004/2005**



**All actions that are directed
against nature, will not subsist.**

Charles Darwin

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Preface

Dear Readers,



The work of conservationists is always a fight against time! Unfortunately this also applies for the protection of lakes and wetlands. The pollution and destruction of essential eco-systems are increasing alarmingly. In April 2005, the Earth Policy Institute in Washington published a report on the situation of lakes under the title "Disappearing Lakes, Shrinking Lakes". We quote from the report: "West Africa's Lake Chad has shrunk to a mere 5 per cent of its former size. Central Asia's Aral Sea is shrinking, gradually turning into desert. In Israel, the receding shores of Lake Tiberias – also known as the Sea of Galilee – sometimes allow mere mortals to walk where the water

once was. Thousands of lakes in China have disappeared entirely. All told, more than half of the world's 5 million lakes are endangered." You will find additional information under www.earth-policy.org.

Our Living Lakes member Lago de Chapala is among the lakes threatened to disappear. Mexico's largest lake Chapala is the primary source of water for Guadalajara's growing population of 5 million. This lake's long-term decline began in the 1970s, corresponding with increased agricultural development in the Rio Lerma watershed. Since then, the lake has lost more than 80 per cent of its water. Intense rainfalls in winter 2003/2004 have contributed to alleviate the dramatic situation, but the situation is in no way satisfactory – dry periods will surely occur again.

The first Ibero-American Living Lakes Conference was held at Lake Chapala in March 2004 in order to make the problems of Lago de Chapala known at international level and to support our Mexican partners. All Living Lakes partners from South and Central America took part in the meeting as well as over 150 representatives from communities and private organisations around Lake Chapala. Only the national environmental authority and water department did not attend the conference. All participants signed a "declaration" containing the conclusions and recommendations of the conference participants (the English version is available at www.amigosdelago.org) which we immediately communicated to the Mexican President Fox. Unfortunately the authorities, one year after the conference, have not reacted yet! The pollution by heavy metals and other highly toxic material has increased; the substances have already been detected in fish populations. And people live on fish and water fowl – so the cycle is closed.

The second focus of the year was the 9th international Living Lakes Conference held in the Columbia Wetlands in Canada, in September 2004, which included presentations from over 90 speakers who shared their experiences, successes and challenges in the field of sustainable recreation and business practices.

Our Living Lakes partner EKES, now called Wildsight, drew a positive balance of the effects of the conference: Excellent media coverage, improvement of the organisation's profile and media credibility, the nomination for the prestigious Canadian Environmental Award in the conservation category and decisive support for the designation of the Columbia Wetlands as Ramsar Site. On the basis of the conference Wildsight succeeded in getting funding for the Lake Windermere Project. Key activities of the project include an initial collection of scientifically sound baseline water quality data, followed by ongoing monitoring and management by a community-based Lake Windermere monitoring committee and local volunteers. Area residents, government officials, real estate representatives and the general public will have the opportunity to attend hands-on, lake-related educational workshops as well as participate in any potential restoration projects required.

This is really good news! Another positive development: The Living Lakes network still arouses great interest and some more lakes were admitted into the network. The Association of Civil Organisations of Lake Balaton and the Balaton Development Coordination Agency represent the Living Lake Balaton in Hungary and TRÓPICO the Living Lake Titicaca in Bolivia and Peru.

The new category of "Associate Member" was commonly accepted. The criteria for associated membership are not so strict i.e. not only NGOs, also authorities and institutions can be admitted to the network. Additional lakes from "Living Lakes countries" can apply for associated membership. The possibility of becoming Associate Member may lead to the creation of regional networks. In 2004 seven lakes were accepted as associated members.

The network is growing – that is fantastic, but also a great challenge especially in view of the quality of co-operation. In order to co-ordinate satisfactorily the growing number of partners and the requirements of the network, the organisation has to grow as well – that means money is needed for its expansion.

In this respect 2004 was a difficult year! We have been able to keep all business partners – a real success in these difficult economic times. Some partners, however, have cut back funding and others will in future provide money for concrete projects only.

A focus of Living Lakes' work is the support of local actions, and in this annual report you will find details on all projects we have supported. 100 per cent of the donations are used according to the purpose for which they were spent. But we have to find resources to finance the preparation of projects, our endeavours to find subsidies, the exchange of experiences and for PR work – a network cannot work without power!

On behalf of the GNF Board and all Living Lakes partners, I want to thank all our business partners and institutions for their support. We hope that also in difficult economic times you will continue to support our work. A very special thank you goes to all private donators and patrons who foster our work in lake regions. You are an important part of the Living Lakes team – and only together we can succeed in solving the current problems and develop alternative approaches.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marion Hammerl".

Marion Hammerl

President of Global Nature Fund

1 Presentation of the Global Nature Fund (GNF)

Presentation of the Global Nature Fund (GNF)

Goals

The Global Nature Fund (GNF) is an international foundation for environment and nature. It has been actively working for natural and environmental protection as well as animal protection since its creation in 1998.

The main goals of the GNF are:

- Promotion of innovative projects to conserve nature, preserve biodiversity and protect drinking water supply
- Protection and preservation of our natural foundations of life
- Development of model projects to support sustainable business practices
- International environmental dialogue between environmental associations, businesses, public authorities, politicians and scientists
- Protection of migrant species, their habitats and corridors
- Environmental education, publications and events addressing natural and environmental protection topics.

The Global Nature Fund Team



Organisation

The Global Nature Fund is a non-profit foundation of civil law. On 29 April 1998 GNF was registered by the Senate Administration for Justice in Berlin. The headquarters is located in Radolfzell at Lake Constance, Germany. The assets of the foundation amount to € 285,000 at 31 December 2004.

According to § 4 of the statutes the bodies of the foundation are the Board of Directors (Board) and the Founders Committee. The Board of Directors is voted for a period of four years. The Board is to administer the foundation in accordance with the charter and is liable to a precise and economical handling of the foundation assets and other funds. The experiences of the Board members in the field of nature and environmental protection is highly important and relevant for GNF's work.

The members of the GNF Board are:



Marion Hammerl
President,
Überlingen, Germany



Prof. Dr. Aitken Clark
Vice-President,
Cambridge, Great Britain



Prof. Dr. Gerhard Thielcke
Honorary President,
Radolfzell, Germany



Jörg Dürr-Pucher
Radolfzell, Germany



Dr. Hendrik Hoeck
Kreuzlingen, Switzerland



James Strock
San Francisco, USA



Ranveig Eckhoff
Oslo, Norway

The Founders Committee's responsibility is to observe the foundation and therewith the Board of Directors. The Founders Committee consists of the founders and co-founders (minimum deposit € 20.000). If a member of the founding council or a donor is voted into the Board of Directors, then the individual loses its position in the founding council for the length of its time in the Board of Directors.

The Founders Committee currently consists of (in alphabetical order):

- Karla Bauer, Murnau, Germany
- Michael Bauer, Moos, Germany
- Prof. Dr. Thomas Feske, Valencia, Spain
- Jürgen Resch, Überlingen, Germany

Passive co-founders are Dr. Renate Gehring and the A. Ziemann GmbH.

Membership

The Global Nature Fund is member of the following organisations:

- Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR)
- Central Administration of German Foundations (Bundesverband Deutscher Stiftungen)
- Future e.V.
- ECOCAMPING e.V.
- Ecotrans e.V.
- FAN (Freshwater Action Network)

Pantanal in Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay



2 Project Living Lakes

Project Living Lakes



In 1998, the Global Nature Fund launched the international network Living Lakes. Goal of this worldwide initiative is the protection of lakes, wetlands and drinking water reservoirs of the world. A main focus of the network is the active co-operation between the Living Lakes partner organisations, the population, governments and business partners. Emphasis is placed on environmentally friendly, sustainable activities and structures. Com-

munication and co-operation are main aspects of the Living Lakes partnership. The project was started by four partners: Lake Constance Foundation for Lake Constance in Germany, Switzerland and Austria, the Mono Lake Committee for the Mono Lake in California, USA, the Wilderness Foundation at Lake St. Lucia in South Africa and ILEC, the International Environment Committee Foundation, for Lake Biwa in Japan. Since that time the network has been growing dynamically and presently consists of 39 lakes and wetlands. At the 9th and 10th international Living Lakes Conferences in October 2004 in Canada and in May 2005 in the Philippines three lakes were admitted to the network.



Partner Lakes

1. Columbia River Wetlands; Canada
2. Mono Lake; USA
3. Lake Chapala; Mexico
4. Laguna Fúquene; Colombia
5. Lake Titicaca; Bolivia and Peru
6. Pantanal; Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay
7. Mar Chiquita; Argentina
8. Norfolk and Suffolk Broads; Great Britain
9. La Nava; Spain
10. Lake Constance; Germany, Switzerland and Austria
11. Võrtsjärv and Peipsi; Estonia and Russia
12. Lake Balaton; Hungary
13. Milicz Ponds; Poland
14. Nestos Lakes and Lagoons; Greece
15. Lake Victoria; Kenya
16. Lake St. Lucia; South Africa
17. Lake Uluabat; Turkey
18. Dead Sea; Israel, Jordan and Palestine
19. Lake Tengiz; Kazakhstan
20. Lake Baikal; Russia
21. Lake Poyang; China
22. Lake Biwa; Japan
23. Laguna de Bay; Philippines
24. Mahakam Lakes; Indonesia
25. Honorary Lake: Vostok; Antarctica
26. Lake Paliastomi; Georgia

Associated Membership

Since the introduction of the Associated Membership in 2003, the GNF admitted 13 new partners with the approval of the Living Lakes partners:

1. Kolindsund Wetlands; Denmark
2. Lago Enriquillo and Lac Azuéli; Dominican Republic and Haiti
3. Lake Sapanca; Turkey
4. Salobrar de Campos; Majorca, Spain
5. Mindelsee; Germany
6. Labanoras Regional Park; Lithuania
7. Lake Uvs; Mongolia
8. Lake Pulicat; India
9. Lake Maduganga and Lake Madampe; Sri Lanka
10. Laguna Atotonilco; Mexico
11. Lake Amatitlan; Guatemala
12. Lake Bolgoda; Sri Lanka
13. Lake Taal; Philippines

New Partner Lakes

2004: Lake Balaton

Lake Balaton is one of the most significant natural treasures of Hungary with a unique ecological asset. With a surface area of about 600 square kilometres and an average depth of 3 metres Lake Balaton is one of the largest freshwater bodies in Central Europe. A large number of rare and protected plant and animal species can be found in the area such as the Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*),

Black Woodpecker (*Dryocopus martius*) and otter (*Lutra lutra*). A part of the neighbouring wetland Kis-Balaton is under the protection of the Ramsar convention. The Living Lakes partner organisations are the Association of Civil Organisations of Lake Balaton in co-operation with the Lake Balaton Development Coordination Agency.

2004: Lake Titicaca; Bolivia, Peru

Lake Titicaca covers an area of almost 8,300 square kilometres and is the largest lake in South America. Consistently increasing water removal and global climate changes are resulting in a continuous declining water level at Lake Titicaca. For thousands of years the Aymará people have been living in the surrounding areas of the lake, a native population which kept its own language and culture alive. The Living Lakes partner organisations at Lake Titicaca are the Bolivian Conservation Association TRÓPICO and CEDAS from Peru.

2005: Lake Paliastomi, Georgia

The Lake Paliastomi is located on the eastern coast of the Black Sea. It is the largest lake of over 40 other smaller lakes in the ecologically important Kolkheti Wetland complex. The wetland area is habitat for many rare endemic plants as well as amphibians, reptiles, and mammals. The rich fishing grounds ensure income and livelihood for the local fishermen. Illegal hunting, over-fishing, as well as water removal are the biggest environmental problems at the lake. The Living Lakes partner organisation is the Black Sea Eco-Academy in Batumi, Georgia.

Lake Balaton in Hungary



Alpaca at Lake Titicaca that borders Bolivia and Peru



3 Events

Events

International Living Lakes Conference

The 9th international Living Lakes Conference themed “Sustainable use of land and water resources” took place in the Columbia River Wetlands in Canada from 26 September to 2 October 2004. The conference was opened by Prof. Dr. Hartmut Vogtmann, President of the Germany Federal Agency for Nature Conservation. The meeting focused on sustainable land and water use in recreational and tourism developments and in business and corporate practices. These topics are of critical importance to the rapidly growing area surrounding the Columbia Wetlands. More than 200 participants from 30 different countries participated. Through workshops and panel discussions, international delegates, decision makers and environmentalists debated if nature protection and leisure industry can exist in harmony.

Living lakes and wetlands are part of our sustainable economic future. The conference created an opportunity for corporations and governments to demonstrate their commitment to protect the ecological integrity of critical water bodies. The developments are very promising. Already some months after the conference the Canadian Living Lakes partner Wildsight started a large-scale project for the establishment of a biological reserve.

Dr. Hartmut Vogtmann, President of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, during his opening speech at the 9th Living Lakes Conference



The conference was supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation. GNF supporters like Lufthansa, DaimlerChrysler, Kärcher and Unilever contributed with lectures on corporate social responsibility and sustainable water use. The company representatives also took part in the working groups. Lufthansa provided free flight tickets for some participants from developing countries.

Marketplace of Alternative Travel 2004 (Reisepavillon)

The Reisepavillon, the largest fair for sustainable tourism, was an outstanding opportunity to present alternative tourism offers to a broad public audience. The exposition took place from 6 February to 8 February 2004 in Hanover, Germany. The focus in the year 2004 was on “Renewables in tourism”. In co-operation with the German Association for Technical Cooperation (gtz) the GNF organised a discussion meeting on this topic. Well-known representatives of different institutions from Germany and Europe discussed the chances and limits of renewable energies in the tourism sector. Guilia Carbone from UNEP presented the survey “Switch on: Renewable Energy Opportunities in the Tourism Industry”. Worldwide tourism is the most important economic sector, but the increasing number of tourists inevitably leads to climate stress. Global climate change also has effects on tourism development. Examples of sustainable tourism were discussed and presented during the fair.

GNF information desk at the Marketplace of Alternative Travel



Solar Ship Network



The GNF initiated the Solar Ship Network with support of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the German Federal Environmental Agency. The Solar Ship Network is an independent platform for all parties involved in the solar ship branch. The project aims to support the co-operation between all players in the solar ship business and to strengthen and promote solar navigation. A close co-operation of all parties involved in the solar ship business is crucial for a successful future development and the extension of solar ships. The network brings together all players of the solar navigation business – boat operators, construction engineers and boat manufacturers, solar power and solar ship initiatives as well as environmental organisations and political representatives. The network offers a wide variety of information concerning solar navigation for the public. Experts can find co-operation partners on the website www.solarschiff-netzwerk.org and can start an exchange of information as well as a knowledge transfer with the parties involved in the solar ship branch.

Nature Conservation Days 2004

Every year in January the Nature Conservation Days take place at Lake Constance. In 2004 about 400 participants met in Radolfzell to listen and discuss renewable energy, the resurgence of the beaver population and water protection. Dr. Hendrik Hoeck, a member of the GNF board, reported on the current conservation situation at Lake Chapala in Mexico and on Lake Fúquene in Colombia. The GNF information stand provided additional information about the Living Lakes partner lakes and the opportunity for people to sign a protest letter to increase political pressure on the Mexican government to finally take the necessary steps to save Lake Chapala. The “Wish Fish” action was a great success. The ten most popular wishes of the several GNF events are listed on the GNF web site.

Workshop of the Solar Ship Network in Frankfurt on the Main



Ibero-American Living Lakes Conference

In March 2004 the first Ibero-American Living Lakes Conference was held for about 200 representatives of citizens' initiatives, communities, environmental organisations, scientific institutions and ethnic groups from all around Lake Chapala. The delegates met to discuss the growing crisis of Mexico's largest lake.

The water in-flow to Lago de Chapala has been systematically reduced for more than two decades. The replenishment for the lake has been cut-off by the construction of more than 200 dams. The most important water in-flow to the lake, the Rio Lerma, is used up-stream, in the state of Guanajuato, for the irrigation of an expansive agricultural area. Due to leakages from old irrigation systems, over half of the water is wasted. The small stream which does eventually reach the Chapala is heavily contaminated with industrial waste from industries which drain their mostly untreated waste water directly into the Rio Lerma. More than half of the waste water treatment plants in the towns and villages situated along the river and around the lake are not working. At the same time, Lago de Chapala provides over 60 per cent of the drinking water to Guadalajara, a city of 5 million people.

The Living Lakes partners among the ten Latin-American countries served as positive examples of sustainable use in lake regions. At the end of the conference all delegates signed a "Declaration for Lago de Chapala" which included resolutions and recommendations in the areas of water quality and in the use of the resource water in agriculture, fishery and tourism, as well as recommendations for the participation of public and private organisations in the development and execution of plans, programmes and the legal framework. The resolution further calls for the affected local authorities and for the Mexican government to finally place Lago de Chapala under the protection of the international Ramsar convention for important wetland areas.

The Iberian-American Living Lakes Conference was organised by the GNF, the Mexican Living Lakes partners Amigos del Lago de Chapala and Fundación Cuenca Lerma Chapala as well as the University of Guadalajara.

Ibero-American Living Lakes Conference



Lake Chapala in Mexico



4 Nature Summer Camps

Nature Summer Camps

The Nature Summer Camps are a practical approach to promote co-operation between environmental organisations and business partners with the involvement of the employees. In 2004, the GNF offered once again the possibility for Daimler-Chrysler and Lufthansa employees to support Living Lakes regions all over the world. 85 young volunteers took part in the Nature Summer Camps 2004. This kind of volunteer activity, with the compelling combination of nature protection and an adventure vacation was met with much interest from the young adult participants.

In Greece, the volunteer conservationists assisted in the creation of sustainable tourism options for the lakes and lagoons in the Nestos. They helped to maintain a nature trail, established a platform for bird observation activities and constructed a floating island for breeding birds. The youth also collected garbage in environmentally sensitive areas.

Lake Baikal also proved particularly fascinating to the participants. Together with Russian pupils and the organisation GRAN the young Germans cleaned mountain rivers, installed an eco-park and maintained and signposted nature trails. Supervised by the other partner organisation in Russia, FIRN, the youth established a refuge and an outside toilet in the Zaibaikalsky National Park. They also provided information material for the guests of the national park. Tourism has recently started to increase in this area, for this reason it is important to establish environmentally friendly tourism offers.

At Lake Võrtsjärv and Lake Peipsi in Estonia the volunteers repaired nature trails and hiking paths,

fixed traditional fences, constructed smaller bridges and established fire places at campgrounds to avoid illegal fires. In co-operation with Estonian students they also assisted in the restoration of an old fishing village and landscape conservation. The Summer Camp was organised by the Estonian Fund for Nature.

At Lake Chapala in Mexico they placed water level checkmarks to mark the optimal level and to call attention to the loss of water. In order to regulate the streams of visitors the youth also planned hiking paths and prepared and disseminated information material. They also helped erect information panels around the lake which are highlighting the natural beauties but also indicate the threats to nature.

In China at Lake Poyang the youth created colourful panels with information about environmental protection and hung them up at a local school. They supported local rice farmers in the field and assisted in the tea harvest. They also volunteered in the botanical garden and collected garbage on hiking trails. With a lot of fantasy and creativity the participants designed and constructed a photo exhibition about their camp experience, which attracted many Chinese visitors.

Once again, South Africa was the favourite destination for the young camp participants. The Wildlands Conservation Trust supervised the camp. The Germans worked in nature reserves and removed alien plants to conserve the nests of the Nile crocodiles. At the Crocodile Centre the youth assisted in measuring and weighing juvenile crocodiles. The participants also helped to construct a suspension bridge which will be used for animal counting in the reserve.

Environmental education in China



Traditional fence building in Estonia



5 Supported Projects

Supported Projects

The support of concrete projects is an important part of Living Lakes and the project "Preservation of Cultural Landscapes". Upon request GNF grants support for concrete projects that the partners undertake. That makes it possible to implement unique and transferable model projects. Due to the valuable support of our donors and institutions it has been possible to carry out several projects in Kazakhstan, Russia, Colombia, China, Estonia, South Africa, Kenya, Germany and Spain in the year 2004. In 2004 and 2005, in Poland, Brazil and Mexico grants from the past years were used for project activities.

Lake Baikal; Russia

Barn Swallow project

With support of the German foundation "Our World - Foundation for Environment and Development" the GNF in co-operation with the Russian organisation GRAN implemented a project for the protection of the Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*). Pupils at Lake Baikal and at Lake Constance observed birds from August to November 2004. The children counted swallows and documented their observations in diaries and paintings.

20 members of the youth group "Jungstörche" from Friends of the Earth Volkertshausen, Germany, observed about 30 bird parents which raised about 100 youth until autumn when they migrated south. At the same time, 70 teenagers from nine schools on the eastern shores of Lake Baikal watched Barn

Swallows. Local project leaders supervised the project. All children got teaching materials about the Barn Swallows. Over the course of the year the children learned that intact nature is a necessary precondition for the survival of the acrobats of the air. In order to share their newfound discoveries with other children, the Russians organised school festivals and contests and awarded the best Barn Swallow diaries.

The highlight and closure of the project was an online chat which was organised for the purpose of sharing the children's experiences during the project. With the aid of a translator the communication was trouble-free. The kids agreed that the lack of breeding areas in particularly difficult times such as the early onset of winter and scarcity of food sources as being the crucial enemies of the swallows' breeding success. At the end all the children were in the complete agreement that such successful international environmental education activities should be continued in the future.

Protection of Baikal seals

The Living Lakes partner FIRN co-operated with the employees of the Zaibakalsky National Park to find solutions for a better visitor management at the Ushkany Islands at Lake Baikal. Most of the Baikal seals live on these islands. Unnecessary hiking trails to the observation area have been closed. The observation places also have been covered with camouflage nets. Additionally, the team developed information panels which were installed at the park's entrance. The panels provide information about the Baikal seals, which have lived in Lake Baikal for more than 20 million years.

Watching Barn Swallows



Information desk about Baikal seals for the national park



Additionally, the partners drafted an informational brochure about the uniqueness of the Baikal seals and their subsequent endangered status. This informational material was made available for use by travel guides, park inspectors and other experts. The pamphlet contains detachable postcards which allow people, for a small fee, to receive a small "visitor's visa stamp" from the island. With the purchase of this stamp and the mailing of the postcard, the national park is able to raise money to support the control station on Ushkany Island.

In the end, FIRN 2004 led an information campaign for the promotion of soft tourism on Ushkany Island. The visitors' regulations for the island can be found on the FIRN travel website (www.firntravel.ru/nerpa). Additionally, leaflets about Ushkany Island and its visitor regulations were sent to travel agents, scientific institutions and nature museums. Intensive work with the media supplemented the campaign work of our Russian partner.

In December, all the representatives of the Burjat nature protectorates participated in a seminar about ecotourism development. This seminar was sponsored by FIRN and FIRN Travel with financial support from GNF and the British Council. The main focus of the seminar was concentrated on organised tours to protected and sensitive natural habitats, improved collaboration between ecological travel participants, and the development of ecotourism offers.

In 2004, GNF assigned a total of € 6,000 for projects on Lake Baikal. For 2005 there are plans for many more actions and measurements contributing to the protection of the Baikal seals, and subsidy money has been anticipated for support of these projects. The most important single supporter of the project on Lake Baikal is EthikBank.

Lake Poyang; China

Our partner organisation in China, MRLSD (Promotion Association of Mountain-River-Lake Regional Development) led, in co-operation with local government and non-governmental organisations, a project focused on consciousness development education for the protection of Lake Poyang and the Siberian Crane. Another focus of the project was the implementation of sustainable farming to allow farmers to earn a living.

After resettlement of about 1,000 farmers from the Shahushan community located at Lake Poyang, land was allocated to them. Due to the lack of technical equipment the farmers could not cultivate the land but started illegal fishing and hunting birds to secure their livelihood. Also threatened by hunting was the Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*).

The goal of the MRLSD project was to explain the local people the ecological importance of the wetland and its protection at the same time developing farming methods providing alternative sources of income. GNF supports the project with € 7,500. A survey on the protection of the Lake Poyang area among the locals showed that 96 per cent of the interviewed persons agreed to its protection, but had little knowledge about protective measures. In conjunction with a seminar, a variety of informational materials and training seminars were offered, and more than 40 participants were able to make use of these resources.

Siberian Crane at Lake Poyang in China



The overuse of the vegetative and animal resources in the region of Lake Poyang has resulted in ignorance and missed income opportunities for the local population. To remedy this problem, three different agricultural models were developed, with support from NGO representatives and the University of Jiangxi, which were specifically adapted to the conditions of the local economy.

The first of these models centres around the combination of duck and fish breeding and the cultivation of lotus and water chestnuts. A second model is based upon the cultivation of high-quality commodities such as crabs, shrimp, and eel through aquaculture. The third model discusses Lihao, a wild grass which can be found only in the Poyang region. Because of its fresh flavour and its high nutritional content, it is a very popular Chinese food item, and this high demand cannot be met with wild-grown Lihao alone. This model predicts an ever-growing Lihao crop which will supplement local farmers' income.

Farming families received extensive training to facilitate the application of these new models. To demonstrate practical application of the new development concepts, twenty households were selected to participate in the project. In model farms which suspended the application of chemical fertilizers, farmers and local representatives could visit and inform themselves about the newly adapted agricultural methods. The trainings were conducted by agriculture experts of the Xingzi Circle.

Wind and solar energy for the visitor centre at Lake Tengiz



Lake Tengiz; Khazakstan

Large portions of Lake Tengiz in the Kazakhstan steppes have been under protection for many years. In and around the lake numerous animal and plant species reside, some of which are endangered. These include species such as the Saiga antelope, the Dalmatian Pelican and the Steppe Eagle. As a consequence of human actions, these animals are once again in danger. The withdrawal of water from the lake and the illegal hunting of protected animals directly and indirectly threaten these species. Power lines around the lake are life threatening traps for many steppe bird species. The Saiga antelopes are being brought, through poaching and the shrinking of their habitats, to the edge of extinction.

In early 2004, GNF led a second fundraising campaign for this important Living Lakes project. As a result of this fundraising, BirdLife Germany, who led the project, was assigned a grant of € 5,000. In the coming months these funds enabled, among many things, the deactivation of the dangerous power lines as well as the renovation of the preserve's visitor centre. An educational animated film helps to clarify the protection of the Saiga antelope and create a political consciousness for visitors of the preserve. An additional long term goal of the project is that the Tengiz preserve remain designated as an exceptional UNESCO World Nature Heritage site.

Lake Chapala; Mexico

On Lake Chapala, Mexico's largest lake, two Living Lakes partners are working: The Fundación de la Cuenca Lerma Chapala-Santiago and the Sociedad Amigos del Lago de Chapala. The organisations led, among other projects, a campaign against the building of the planned embankment dam of Arcediano. The embankment dam is intended to provide drinking water for the millions of residents of Guadalajara. At this time, the drinking water comes from the nearby Lake Chapala, the natural water reservoir for Guadalajara. For years, the water resources of the area were overused and the lake was damaged by water extraction for the community and by industrial pollution. For years the lake was able to recover much of its volume loss through heavy rainfall, but so far the Mexican

authorities have undertaken no measures to better the situation. With a collective € 10,000 in grants, GNF supported the work of their Mexican partner organisations.

The Fundación has been engaged for years in the efforts to rescue and protect Lake Chapala and its watershed area. Together with the Institute for Environmental Law (IDEA) the foundation concentrates on political lobbying and the enforcement of compliance with Mexican laws for protection of water resources. In past years, a multiplicity of actions with the population were led to enforce their right to clean water. In the focus of the action was the adoption of a law for renaturation, protection and sustainable development of the Lake Chapala watershed.

The Fundación needed to bring multiple illegal water extraction operations on the lake into public view. Actions against the building of the embankment dam also proceeded, growing ever more active. Many water extraction operations were publicly indicted because of false environmental compliance tests, false technical statistics and because of intimidation of residents of the towns of Arcediano. Alongside these efforts, the foundation participated in international co-operation and occasional water quality analysis of Lake Chapala with an independent group. The analysis results were sent to the International Alliance for Human Rights and published in the press. Additionally, Fundación and IDEA developed a proposal to assign an ombudsman in Mexico specifically to address environmental questions, to which one could, in questionable cases like Lake Chapala, turn to. This proposal was supported by the Fundación Global Human Rights. The Mexican government has not yet commented on this proposal.

White Pelicans at Lake Chapala in Mexico



The second partner, the Sociedad Amigos del Lago de Chapala, could put to first use the grant money from 2004 in the following year. An agreement was reached with the abutting towns of Chapala. The Amigos del Lago support local officials from the Health Ministry in their analysis of the water quality of the lake. Samples taken by scientists from the university were regularly analysed. This regular data analysis assured that residents could be warned early of high toxic pollution in their water. The gained data will be delivered to the authorities with request to apply finally efficient measures for improving the water quality. Indeed, the national water authority established a monitoring system for the verification of the water quantity and water quality, but the results have not been published yet.

Conclusion one year after the Ibero-American Living Lakes Conference: Up to now the situation at Lake Chapala has not improved. The envisaged aims could not be realised, neither regarding sustainable development nor concerning the integration of the local population. The Mexican Water Authority has to implement existing environmental law and to adopt the "polluter pays principle" in order to reduce the lake pollution through industry and agriculture. A management plan is urgently required for the lake and its catchment area. It should be developed in close co-operation with environmental organisations, municipalities and all stakeholders involved. Our partner organisations will continue to put theoretical solution approaches into practice and finally conserve this ecological valuable habitat and drinking water storage.

Lake Võrtsjärv and Lake Peipsi; Estonia and Russia

The Estonian partner organisation Peipsi CTC (Centre for Transboundary Cooperation) organised a voluntary macro-invertebrate monitoring training. Macro-invertebrates are aquatic invertebrates which indicate the ecological status of waterbodies. Aim of the training activity was to involve the local population in the water protection efforts. Teachers, pupils, and interested residents participated in the offered seminars. They learned about water ecology and water species, got instructed in species identification and were trained during the exercises by specialised staff. The

working groups collected samples of water, identified the occurring species and transferred the data to the internet. Thereby they could improve their knowledge of “their” lake which can be passed to friends and colleagues. Experts from the Estonian Environmental Ministry approved the valuable contribution to the environmental monitoring. Due to the great demand for similar actions Peipsi CTC wants to continue the activities in the next year. GNF supported the project with € 5,000.

At Lake Võrtsjärv eutrophication was further increasing. Fast-growing plants are responsible for a declined living quality for animal and plant species in the lake. Mostly numerous fish species are affected by a bad water quality. Besides commercially important species such as sander, eel and pike also rare species such as asp (*Aspius aspius*) are living in the lake. For the protection of the fish stocks our partner organisation initialised an information campaign in co-operation with the Agricultural University of Estonia. The Lake Võrtsjärv Agency received a contribution of € 5,000 from the GNF for its work. In the framework of the campaign seminars were organised to inform about the current situation of fish stocks and to offer further education in fishery management. The seminars were organised for different target groups such as fishermen, pupils and teachers, residents and representatives of environmental organisations. Up to now about 100 interested people took part in these events. A result of the campaign was the prohibition of gill net fishing from spring until late August through the Estonian Environmental Ministry. Fish such as asp were highly endangered

through this catching method. Also the rare Whooper Swan is benefiting from the prohibition. Until now the birds often got caught in the nets while diving for food. Furthermore the partners began to develop a management plan for Lake Võrtsjärv.

Lake Constance; Germany, Austria and Switzerland

The international Lake Constance region is a living important European cultural landscape which has been formed over millennia. Still today the region is largely traditionally managed and cultivated. Despite intensive exploitation valuable representative natural areas have been preserved: Widespread nature reserves and landscape conservation areas, waterfowls habitats of international importance and Natura 2000 areas. Furthermore, Lake Constance region is characterised by unique objects of cultural value. However, the geographical situation of the lake on the border of three countries made transboundary development and protection concepts difficult up to now. It was not possible to arouse international attention for Lake Constance as living natural and cultural landscape so far.

For this reason the Lake Constance Foundation initialised the project “UNESCO World Heritage Status for Lake Constance”. The overall aim of the project is the acceptance of the Lake Constance area as transboundary cultural landscape in the UNESCO World Heritage List of Mankind. The International Lake Constance Conference, commu-

Collection of water samples at Lake Peipsi in Estonia



Research activities at Lake Võrtsjärv in Estonia



nities, rural districts, economy and nature protection organisations were involved in the project. GNF supported the project with € 20,000. To get the status as World Heritage site the following steps were necessary, some of them were carried out in the context of the project:

- Identification of the outstanding natural and cultural values of the landscape
- Development of a long-term management plan for the Lake Constance region under participation of all stakeholders
- Formulation and submission of the application to the UNESCO
- Information and sensitisation of the local population.

The project activities in 2004 resulted in the following outcomes: A dossier was developed which contains a first overview of the history, presence and future of the international Lake Constance region with regard to a possible recognition as World Heritage. Data from the dossier will be used for the information campaign "Pro UNESCO cultural landscape Lake Constance". It will be implemented by the Lake Constance Foundation and its partner organisations during the year 2005 and includes for example the newly created webpage www.weltkulturlandschaftbodensee.info. In May 2004 a hearing of experts took place which was attended by 59 representatives from authorities and associations. For 2005 an information campaign was prepared that will inform target orientedly all persons concerned.

An other grant amounting to € 10,000 was given for the project ECOLUP (Ecological Land Use Planning). Ecologically orientated urban land use planning and a sustainable regional development policy are in the centre of this model project.

Lake St. Lucia; South Africa

Aim of the project "Nature Guide", which was started in March 2004, is the improvement of the living conditions for the rural population through the promotion of the awareness of Lake St. Lucia, its estuaries and the corresponding ecosystems. Due to the increasing tourism and the land use pressure there is a huge demand on qualified nature guides in this area. Eco-tourism is a chance to employ local people. Thus education was focused on knowledge about birds, mammals, and the whole ecosystem. Increased understanding of the biodiversity at Lake St. Lucia and its surroundings was part of the training since all nature guides will be employed by the Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park.

The programme is implemented through the Wildlands Conservation Trust which received € 5,000 for its activities from GNF. The success of the project exceeded all expectations. The first group of nature guides has already found a permanent appointment. The South African side raised additional funds to continue with the project activities in the long run. So five new participants could be employed in the project. The education programme for local nature guides, who are passionately engaged in the protection of the lake and its animal species, is contributing efficiently to a sustainable

City of Überlingen at Lake Constance



Nature Guides at Lake St. Lucia in South Africa



development of the St Lucia area. The project was supported by the German foundation "Our World - Foundation for Environment and Development". The grants were used to purchase materials such as field guides, uniforms, and binoculars. The original idea to train young people as "Fishing Guides" was rejected owing to a lack of demand.

Lake Victoria; Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Renewable Energy for Fisher Folks of Lake Victoria

In 2004, GNF and the Kenyan Living Lakes partner organisation OSIENALA started the project "Renewable Energy for Fisher Folks of Lake Victoria". It was supported by the German Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety as well as the German Association for Technical Cooperation (gtz)/GATE. Private donations also helped to realise the project.

The people in the fisher villages almost entirely rely on biomass for their energy supply. Wood is used for cooking and fish smoking as well as for brick production and pottery. As a result, on the main lands and on the islands large forest areas are over-utilised or already deforested. Kerosene pressure lamps used for fishing of the Lake Victoria Sardine further pollute the lake.

The project aims to promote solar technology and the use of energy efficient techniques in order to improve the standard of living and income of rural communities. At the same time the measures will contribute to the reduction of environmental impacts to Africa's largest lake. The project consists of different elements: Education, public relation, demonstration and micro-financing. A total of 100 people from local communities at Lake Victoria will be educated in the use and maintenance of solar lamps, fuel briquette machines, energy efficient kilns as well as water purification facilities and cooling systems. In January 2005 already 33 people took part in a course offered at the OSIENALA training centre. Beside theoretical lessons participants also had the possibility to test the new solar lamps that could be purchased with project funds. Further several day seminars are planned. The participants also received an introduction in financing

solar systems through the "Beach Bank". This newly established bank offers small scale credits for the purchase of solar systems and has already regular clientele and high acceptance.

Due to the demonstration facilities the rural population could learn about the effectiveness of solar technology. Feedback on obstacles in the application for fishing is very helpful for further development. The fishers' response was extremely positive. Particularly with regard to the rise in prices for kerosene solar technology is an interesting alternative. The acceptance of solar-based energy efficient smoking technology is a main factor for the success of the 18 month project. The Baden-Württemberg Foundation (Landesstiftung Baden-Württemberg) will also provide financial assistance for the project. With regard to the isolated location of small villages information is highly important. For this reason OSIENALA established a radio station "Radio Lake Victoria". The station reaches about 3 million people at Lake Victoria.

Sitatunga Antelope and Hippo Project

The Sitatunga is threatened due to the conversion of marsh land to arable land as well as poaching. In co-operation with the Kenyan Wildlife Service our partners started fencing a sanctuary for antelopes to conserve the valuable habitats and to protect them against illegal shooting. It will be the first sanctuary in Kenya. OSIENALA will train nature guides to provide information for tourists and local people on the hippos of Lake Victoria and to develop a sustainable tourism offer for the region. The young guides will get extensive training and will be equipped with the necessary material. A

Demonstration of solar power systems at Lake Victoria in Kenya



new, robust boat will be purchased to carry visitors safely to the observation points for hippos. 15 young people will get a new source of income due to their employment as nature guide. GNF supports the project for the protection of Sitatungas and hippos with a donation of € 6,000.

Milicz Ponds; Poland

In 2003, the starting signal for a project of our Polish partner pro Natura was given. It was planned to purchase land in order to conserve flood plains in the Barycz area. For this purpose and for restoration measures GNF supported the Polish partner with € 10,000. Unfortunately, the transaction could not be realised in 2003 and 2004. The governmental authorities did not agree to sell the meadows, neither did the farmers sell their land because they were waiting for EU payments after Poland's EU accession. The process was also delayed due to the time-consuming land assessments. At the beginning of 2005 the situation calmed down and the land purchase could finally be realised. A total of 10,5 hectares of land at an average price of 25 Cent per square metre could be purchased. A long-term management concept was developed in order to achieve an effective conservation of the meadows. The plan determines if an area is grazed by animals or mowed. Additionally, sites were chosen for restoration. Due to the management measures the meadows will be conserved as habitat for Black-tailed Godwits, Corn Crane, Pewit and other wildlife species.

The pro Natura environmental information centre is situated in an old, decrepit forester's lodge. Groups of juveniles and students are coming here to learn about the Milicz Ponds and to hold seminars and conferences. Due to the installation of sanitary equipment long-term stays are now possible without any problem.

Laguna Fúquene; Colombia

In the Indian language Laguna Fúquene is called "Bed of the Fox" as it is home of the rare Andes Fox. The place is located in an altitude of 2,500 metres and covers a surface of 32 square kilometres. Since several years the partner organisation Fundación Humedales is lobbying for official approval of the lake as Ramsar wetland of international importance. For that purpose a large-scale campaign was carried out last year. Fundación Humedales wants to promote the Ramsar convention in Latin America with this campaign. First of all a working group with teachers, students, pupils and other members of educational institutions was established. The working group is engaged in the target group-oriented implementation of the campaign and develops adequate information material. Until September 2005 a video, a school book and an information book for adults will be completed. Afterwards the materials will be disseminated in Colombia and ten further countries in Latin America. GNF supported the project with € 3,000.

Restored wetland in Poland



Environmental education for children in Colombia



Pantanal; Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay

Pantanal is world's largest wetland. On its 140,000 square kilometres a greater variety of species is found than on the whole African continent. Hyacinth Macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*), the largest parrot worldwide nests inside holes in large trees. It is endangered by illegal trade and environmental changes. The reproductive period coincides with the nesting season of other birds that use the same cavities which generates strong competition. To increase the number of nesting holes, our Brazilian partner organisation ECOTROPICA protects already existing holes and installs artificial nesting boxes.

In 2002, we reported that ECOTROPICA intended to carry out a telemetric study of the Hyacinth Macaw habitats used off the nesting season. Unfortunately it was not yet possible to find a manufacturer providing suitable telemetric systems. So the GNF grant of E 10,000 (originally destined for this measure) was used for other activities. From January to December 2004 228 nests were monitored (among them 130 natural and 98 artificial nests). They were located in three regions of the South Pantanal (Abobral, Miranda and Aquidauana) and in Bonito. Over 75 per cent of the nests were used by other species – this figure shows that the nests were violently disputed. In 2004, over 40 nestlings were raised. They were weighed and measured before they fledged. Additionally ECOTROPICA collected biological data for further studies. They placed microchips and rings in order to facilitate the identification of the Hyacinth Macaw in future.

During the past year the Brazilian partners carried out several environmental education activities to raise the public awareness of the Hyacinth Macaw as a highly endangered species. Lectures about this threatened species were given to Brazilian and foreign tourists, and at several events ECOTROPICA informed about the Hyacinth Macaw project. As there is not enough data material concerning the Hyacinth Macaw in the Pantanal available yet, bird watching and data collection concerning the migratory bird routes are in the focus of ECOTROPICA's work.

Hyacinth Macaws are threatened through animal smuggling and loss of habitats



Measuring and weighing of juvenile Hyacinth Macaws



Project: Preservation of the Cultural Landscapes

In 1998, GNF together with its Spanish partner organisation Fundación Global Nature, launched the project "Preservation of Cultural Landscapes" in the Spanish Extremadura with the objective of keeping alive traditional management practices in order to preserve natural landscapes. Cultural landscapes can range from pasture for ancient domestic animal races to habitat for threatened wild animals and recreation areas for nature lovers. Together with our partners we want to ensure that these valuable regions remain untouched by mass tourism. Since 2004 GOB (Balearic Group of Ornithology and Defence of Nature), a Balearic environmental organisation that is particularly committed to the protection of natural and cultural landscapes in Majorca, has been our new partner. The annual report "Preservation of Cultural Landscapes" is available at GNF.

Protection of the Dehesas in the Spanish Extremadura

Extremadura is located in the southwest of Spain and is one of the last remaining vast natural and cultural landscapes of Spain. In the large areas of holm oak and cork oak pastures called Dehesas, Iberian pigs and the white Extremadura Carceres (cattle) are grazing. To preserve ancient domestic animal races and traditional forms of pasture farming, on special farms (Fincas), programmes for sustainable agriculture and the preservation of old domestic animal breeds as well as cultivated plants are carried out in an exemplary manner. The aim is to inform farmers of the possibilities to combine concepts of protection with agricultural production. Since 1995, Fundación Global Nature, on the Finca "El Baldío", has raised - according to strict rules - ancient domestic animal races such as Blanca Cacerena, the Black Merino Sheep, Retinta Goat and the Castilian Black Chicken to save them from extinction. Additionally, young trees of the 100 hectares afforested holm oaks are being cut and protective equipment (fences, nets etc.) to prevent deer damages repaired.

Extremadura has a very great biodiversity. Black Stork is breeding in the Dehesas whilst White Stork prefers the roofs of the villages. Thousands of Crane from northern Europe winter there. It is still

an ideal territory for rare and threatened animal species such as Imperial Eagle, Cinereous Vulture, Owl and Iberian Lynx which are found in the remote, inaccessible mountains and canyons of the Extremadura. Their protection, the preservation of old, traditional cultivation methods and sustainable development of the region are the greatest concern of our partner in Spain, the Fundación Global Nature. In 2004, GNF supported the work of Fundación Global Nature with € 4,000.

The information centre "La Dehesa", run by the Fundación Global Nature in Torrejón el Rubio, serves also as coordination centre for nature protection activities and initiatives for sustainable regional development. It offers environmental education programmes for children, young people and adults, and provides accommodation for school classes, hikers, and holiday camp participants. "La Dehesa" is a popular contact point for tourists and locals alike. In 2004, over 6,000 visitors were counted.

In 2003, between January and October, in the Extremadura almost 44,000 hectares of land were destroyed by fire. Therefore Fundación has launched a campaign "Fight against forest fires" aiming at informing the public of the consequences of forest fires, of the importance of intact nature and to show ways to prevent forest fires. This project will be continued in the year 2005.

Iberian Lynx in the Extremadura in Spain



Protection of the Natural and Cultural Landscapes in Majorca

Majorca, formerly considered an oasis of calm, has become one of the most popular holiday destinations in the Mediterranean Sea. Over 11 million tourists visit the island annually. There are still some marvellous beaches and natural landscapes but the island is on the verge of losing its pristine character. New motorways and settlements destroy the beauty of the land. On the other hand, a new “European Florida” with large holiday settlements and golf courts emerges. The growth limit is reached and drinking water scarce.

Therefore, in 2004, GNF has decided to co-operate with the Spanish environmental organisation GOB (Balearic Group of Ornithology and Defence of Nature), which was founded in 1973 by nature lovers and ornithologists to stop the “sell out” of Majorca. In 2005, GNF will support financially GOB’s activities. The following year we will report on successfully implemented measures.

In 1980, GOB bought the 75 hectare Finca “La Trappa” (financed by private donations) thus preventing its destruction by a large-scale tourism project. Today the former trappist monastery is a model of environment-friendly use of Fincas on the Balearic Islands. Reafforestation and measures to prevent forest fires are as important as the revival of traditional agriculture. The Finca is most suitable for environmental activities with children and young people. It is also particularly suitable to promote environment-friendly tourism projects together with tour operators. La Trappa can be visited freely. Everyone can enjoy the calm and the wonderful view of the Island Dragonera.

Another important activity of GOB is the protection of threatened plant and animal species. Majorca is a paradise for birds – Balearic Warbler and Balearic Shearwater are endemic on the island; rare species such as Eleonora’s Falcon, Black Vulture, Booted Eagle, Audouin’s Gull and Red Kite are found in Majorca as well.

The Salobrar de Campos wetland was admitted as Associate Member to the Living Lakes network. This wetland is part of the community of Campos in the south of Majorca. It comprises ponds, dunes and salines that still produce salt and is connected with the Mediterranean by a channel along the natural beach “Es Trenc”. The area comprises a 1,500 hectare dynamic ecosystem with a great number of plants such as Sea Holly, Aleppo Pine, Zamarilla bushes, and tamarinds, also Bee-Eater is found because of the great variety of insects. GOB is in charge of this important wetland and regularly reports on its development.

View to the Island Dragonera



A transmitter is placed on a Red Kite



EU LIFE Project

Wetlands and shallow lakes are among the most important yet threatened ecosystems on earth. Since the beginning of the 20th century over 60 per cent of the wetlands have been destroyed. Against this background the Global Nature Fund, together with seven partner organisations in Greece, Spain, England and Germany has carried out a wetlands management and restoration project. The project with the title “Sustainable Management of Wetlands and Shallow Lakes” was supported financially over 40 months in the frame of the EU LIFE Programme. In October 2004, the closing conference took place in Friedrichshafen on Lake Constance.

In close co-operation with the surrounding communities management plans for the wetlands were developed according to the people’s social and economic needs. Part of the project were also the installation of buffer zones and biological sewage purification to reduce the input of nutrients and toxic substances into the lakes as well as afforestation measures. The plans included recommendations for improved waste water treatment, visitor management and concepts for the development of sustainable agriculture. The transferability of the measures to other wetlands has always been a focus of our work.

Within the scope of the project GNF has developed guidelines for the preparation of a management plan and for the restoration of wetlands. The practical 134 page guidebook was published in four languages (English, German, Spanish and Greek). Additionally, an instructional movie as DVD was made. Guidebook and DVD can be ordered at GNF free of charge (postal charges payable).



EU LIFE Project		
	Goals	Sustainable management of wetlands and shallow lakes, preparation of management plans including concepts for sustainable agriculture, visitor management and optimised wastewater treatment
	Co-ordination	Global Nature Fund
	Project partners	Fundación Global Nature; EPO; Lake Constance Foundation (Bodensee-Stiftung); Broads Authority; regional communities
	Project areas	Nestos Lakes (Greece) La Nava and Boada (Spain)
	Project period	July 2001 - October 2004
	Budget	1 Mio. Euro

Public Relations

Public Relation is an important part of GNF's work. Press releases to current topics are sent to over 1,000 interested people, and press documentations on the feedback drawn up. The quarterly newsletter, published in English and German, presents latest developments in the Living Lakes partner organisations. Four donation mailings per annum are sent out to generate donations and additional patronages for threatened species in lake regions. Additionally to donations, grants for Living Lakes partner organisations for their project work are generated. Publications to relevant topics, information on environmental education are also made available to all interested people.

During the Living Lakes conferences current problems and solutions are being debated. The results are being published in a conference documentation and can be requested from GNF. A GNF exhibition consisting of portable exhibition boards is used for local and international events to illustrate and visualise GNF's work at local and international level. All brochures and information material can be downloaded from www.globalnature.org.

Media Work

In 2004, GNF published about 20 press releases to current environmental topics. Press work is especially important for environmental associations to raise people's awareness of environmental issues and to politically influence the solution to an environmental problem. Numerous articles, TV and Radio programmes dealt with the Living Lakes network.

Three examples from our extensive press archive from German newspapers and magazines:

Süddeutsche Zeitung, 05.11.2004

Skiers and helicopters flights disturb Caribous and Grizzlies (.....). In the focus of the tourism managers are (.....) the unregulated upper reaches of the Columbia River (.....). To prevent bad planning representatives of the Living Lakes organisation met during an international conference in the Canadian Columbia River Wetlands. (.....) In the

Columbia River the problems that may cause environmental damage to these areas are visible (.....). The conference participants are not against tourism but they strongly recommend the Canadians another form of tourism. (.....).

nature & kosmos, July 2004:

Heat shock in lake regions. A consequence of the climate change. The British climatologist Mike Hume analysed the climate in 23 Living Lake regions. His prognosis: In 2080 the temperatures will rise up to 5,6 degrees (.....). The Siberian Lake Baikal could become warm enough for a swim (.....).

Südkurier, 02.11.2004

Lake Constance, a model for other wetlands - (.....) A lot of problems that have been resolved at Lake Constance years ago still threaten other sensible lake regions in Europe: (.....) The know-how and experiences made at Lake Constance are now transferred to other regions within the scope of an international project on sustainable management of lakes and wetlands (.....).

Internet

Both GNF websites www.globalnature.org and www.livinglakes.org provide multilingual information about our activities, projects and background. www.livingwetlands.org informs about the successful EU LIFE project and www.solarschiff-netzwerk.org about the activities of the Solar Ship Network. In the past years the number of visitors has increased continuously. GNF websites receive about 20,000 hits per month.



8 Co-operation with Business Partners

Co-operation with Business Partners

“Co-operation before confrontation”, says Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General, and underlines the importance of co-operations of multinational corporate groups with the United Nations. Ever since its establishment in 1998, GNF has encouraged co-operations of environmental organisations with business partners to advance responsible corporate citizenship and universal social and environmental principles as stated in the UN Global Compact two years ago. The long-lasting successful Living Lakes partnership reflects this commitment. Additionally, a large number of model projects carried out by business partners together with GNF or Living Lakes partner organisations provide transferable experiences. For GNF it is important that its commercial partners are conscious that they bear responsibility towards man and the environment. Corporate citizenship should become an essential component of business strategies and should not depend on a fancy or media strategy.

The recognition that water is a scarce resource has led to changes in **Unilevers** corporate policy during the past 15 years. Besides reducing water consumption and water pollution the global protection of the limited resource water is a priority for Unilever. Against this background, Unilever has supported Living Lakes since its very beginning within the frame of the company’s Water Sustainability Initiative. Since 1989, Unilever is co-operating with different NGOs at Lake Constance. The German branch Lever Fabergé has supported the Lake Constance conservation project of German

Environmental Aid over five years and since 1994 has sponsored the activities of the Lake Constance Foundation as well. In 1998, Unilever became global partner of Living Lakes. Apart from directly supporting GNF, Unilever attaches great importance to regional partnerships with our Living Lakes partners in different countries such as the “Vitality Summer 2004” initiative which was carried out by Unilever Spain in co-operation with our Spanish partner organisation Fundación Global Nature. Over 100 Unilever employees actively helped to clean up the lagoons of Villacañas. Additionally, Unilever provides us contacts to suppliers to extend the number of companies committed to environmental projects.

Seeking a balance between the mobility requirements of the people and the development of vital ecosystems is one of the most important current challenges we face. This is also valid for lake regions. **DaimlerChrysler AG** has been a supporter of Living Lakes since the beginning. For DaimlerChrysler the protection of the environment is an integral part of the corporate business strategy and part of DaimlerChrysler’s social responsibility. Apart from supporting Living Lakes and other innovative projects such as the Nature Summer Camps, GNF sees great development potential in the co-operation with DaimlerChrysler for the future in the solar and fuel cell sector and other alternative sources of energy.

Deutsche Lufthansa AG assumes responsibility far beyond common corporate environmental commitment. Since 1998, Lufthansa has sponsored GNF’s international work. Deutsche Lufthansa has a long tradition of commitment to the environment and co-operation with environmental organisations.

Sieglinde Jocham from DaimlerChrysler welcomes the Nature Summer Camp participants



Lutz Laemmerhold from Lufthansa lecturing on social responsibility of companies



9 Co-operation with Institutions

Lufthansa's support of GNF and Living Lakes is the expression of its responsibility for the environment and sustainable development. Lufthansa is also committed to minimise the environmental impacts of the air traffic.

The medium-sized **company Alfred Kärcher GmbH & Co KG** has supported Living Lakes since 2002. Currently Kärcher is planning a Living Lakes exhibition in the company's canteen. Additionally, biozide free antifouling, an issue of common concern for Kärcher, GNF and Lake Constance Foundation (Bodensee-Stiftung) since 2003, will be subject of an international symposium during the Interboot Water Sports Exhibition 2006.

EthikBank, a direct bank offers ethical, ecological investments and has become a GNF supporter in 2003. EthikBank's aim is to reconcile economic goals with social needs and ecological sense. The Bank applies strict investment criteria and a thoughtful support programme. The Bank's environmental engagement focuses mainly on the support of Lake Baikal, a member lake of the Living Lakes network.

GLS-Gemeinschaftsbank offers the possibility to participate in the "GLS Living Lakes project saving" by opening either a deposit account with a notice period of three months or a four year savings bond. At the end of the calendar year, the interest will be credited to the Global Nature Fund e.g. the saver renounces to the interest earned in favour of GNF.

The **A. Ziemann GmbH**, manufacturer of brewery equipment based in Ludwigsburg, has supported the Living Lakes project with a yearly donation since 2002. The implementation of environmental criteria, sustainability and water protection measures is an important part of Ziemann's corporate philosophy.

SIKA AG, located in Switzerland, is a globally operating company supplying speciality chemicals markets (processing materials) and supporter of the Living Lakes network since 2005. The company focuses on the support of projects in Columbia, Sri Lanka, Kenya and Eastern Europe.

In 2005, **DANKE (SCA)** is celebrating its 20th anniversary. For 20 years DANKE has produced toilet paper made from unbleached recycled paper. Hence, the environment-friendly company together

with GNF is committed to the protection of forests (reforestation and preservation), among them in total 20 different woody areas in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and other countries. Seven international project areas are located in Spain, Indonesia, Russia, Columbia, Sri Lanka, Kenya and South Africa.

Co-operation with Institutions

In addition to corporate sponsorship Living Lakes is supported by **German Federal Foundation for Environment** (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt), the **German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety** (Bundesumweltministerium), **German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation** (Bundesamt für Naturschutz), **German Association for Technical Co-operation (gtz)** (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit), **Baden-Württemberg Foundation** (Landesstiftung Baden-Württemberg), **Environment and Development Foundation** (Stiftung Umwelt und Entwicklung) and the **European Union**. At regional level, GNF co-operates with the **City of Friedrichshafen**, Lake Constance, Germany.

Some of GNF's goals correspond to the stipulations of international treaties such as Agenda 21, the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. GNF's activities focus on the implementation of these requirements. For this reason a co-operation agreement with the **Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention** was signed during the 9th international Living Lakes Conference in Canada. The purpose of this agreement is to strengthen the co-operation between the two parties. To this end the parties will carry out joint projects and activities as well as exchange of knowledge and strategies. For 2005, it is planned to sign a cooperation agreement with the Secretariat of the **Bonn Convention (UNEP/CMS)**.

Co-operation with German Environmental Aid (Deutsche Umwelthilfe)

German Environmental Aid (Deutsche Umwelthilfe) has played a decisive role in the founding of Lake Constance Foundation (Bodensee-Stiftung) and the Global Nature Fund. The three environmental organisations pursue similar goals. Jointly used office facilities, staff and extern service providers, optimised communication and joint projects have great advantages for all three organisations. Additionally, German Environmental Aid supports the Living Lakes project with funds from the T-Mobile supported programme "Phoning for the Environment".

German Environmental Aid is a non-commercial, independent organisation for the protection of nature and environment operating throughout Germany. German Environmental Aid is also a consumer organisation.

The organisation is based in Radolfzell, Lake Constance, with offices in Berlin, Hanover, and a project office in Köthen. Since its foundation in 1975, German Environmental Aid has been committed to the promotion and development of model projects in the fields of nature conservation and environment. German Environmental Aid carries out campaigns and network projects such as "Living Rivers", "Schools for a Living River Elbe", "Energy-saving Community", as well as lobby actions to promote recycling management, returnable bottle systems, air pollution control and climate protection. Additionally, German Environmental Aid awards grants to other environmental organisations such as Friends of the Earth Germany and BirdLife Germany.

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Pupils involved in the project "Living Rivers" in Germany



Joint environmental protection – Pupils study water bodies



Project Financing

Projects can only be realised if the necessary financial resources are available. As GNF does not receive any institutional financial support, it must find ways to raise the necessary money by applying for funds of different institutions and support programmes. As well as the traditional donations there are allocations from judges, public project grants and support from our business partners. Continued information and contact with the donors is an important part of GNF's work.

Donations

GNF has a small number of committed donors. Without their contributions we would not be able to support existing and new projects. The production and distribution of project information is part of the environmental education as stipulated in the GNF Charter. In 2004 we sent out donation requests for the following projects: Lake Tengiz (Kazakhstan), Lakes Peipsi and Võrtsjärv (Estonia), Lake Poyang (China) and Lake Victoria (Kenya). Supporters can also make ecological investments for the benefit of GNF at GLS-Bank and EthikBank. More information can be downloaded from www.gls.de and www.ethikbank.de. In 2004, a legacy was made in favour of the Global Nature Fund.

Allocations

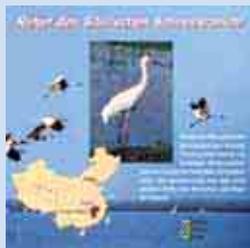
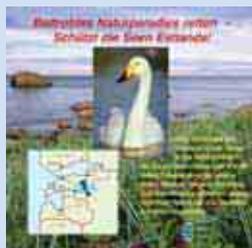
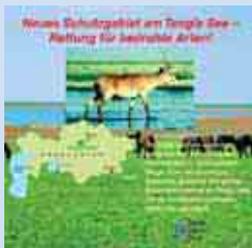
Allocations are sums of money which are assigned by judges and public prosecutors to non-profit organisations. In 2004, we reached the absolute bottom of decline in this area. It is a common trend that law courts increasingly directly transfer fees to the court cashier or they assign prison sentences or social work, especially if fees are not paid. In 2005, in the first three months, the situation has slightly improved. So we are optimistic that we will reach the budgeted level.

Grants

In October 2004 ended the three year EU LIFE project "Sustainable Management of Wetlands and Shallow Lakes" which was funded by the European Commission within the scope of the LIFE programme. In 2005 the final audit will be performed and the remaining payment will be settled by the EU Commission.

Also in 2004 it was possible to secure funding for the annual Living Lakes Conference. This funding came from reserves from German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz) and German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bundesumweltministerium). The conference was organised by our Canadian partner EKES/Wildsight. GNF provided in total € 85,000 for its organisation. The documentation and results of the conference were collected in a comprehensive, multilingual report and can be requested from the Global Nature Fund (catchword: 9th Living Lakes Conference).

GNF mailings in the year 2004



The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the German Federal Environmental Agency supported the Solar Ship Network with € 37,616 which will be co-ordinated by the GNF from July 2004 to December 2005.

The project "Renewable Energies at Lake Victoria" will be supported by the Fund of Deutsche Post AG ("Special Stamp: Protection of Environment"), the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the German Association for Technical Cooperation (gtz) with € 50,000 for training in the fields of energy efficiency and renewable energies as well as an international seminary including international dissemination of the results. Baden-Württemberg Foundation (Landesstiftung Baden-Württemberg) provides € 12,000 for the organisation of the Solar and Energy Efficiency Campaign at Lake Victoria as well as information events.

The foundation "Our World - Foundation for the Environment and Development ("Unsere Welt - Stiftung für Umwelt und Entwicklung") has awarded in total € 20,000 for the projects "Nature Guide at Lake St Lucia" in South Africa and "Barn Swallow Project" at Lake Constance and Lake Baikal.

In-kind Donations

In-kind donations have helped to reduce expenses for office and project equipment. They may comprise computers, printers, mobile telephones, binoculars and special clothing. Our business partner, the Kärcher company, has donated a drinking water treatment plant for Tsunami victims. Over the past years Lufthansa has offered free tickets for our international Living Lakes conferences enabling us to carry out our project work and international meetings in the usual way. Also in-kind donations in terms of printing of information material free of charge help us to save money.

Our media partners nature & kosmos and Gruner + Jahr published several articles about the Living Lakes network. Other publishers promote Living Lakes by printing ads free of charge.

EU LIFE project area in the Nestos area



Visitor information in La Nava, location of the EU LIFE project in Spain



GNF Office

The offices were moved to new facilities in the RIZ (Radolfzeller Innovations Zentrum) allowing close co-operation between GNF, German Environmental Aid and Lake Constance Foundation, meanwhile domiciled in the same premises.

The decision to open a GNF office in Bonn has proved very satisfactory. The close proximity to important institutions such as UNEP/CMS or the EU Commission in Brussels facilitates co-operation. There have been no changes to the team structure. The position of trainee or intern has become well-known and desirable among young people as stepping stone to employment. We are very happy that all trainees have found permanent employment in the nature conservation sector in 2004 despite the difficult job situation.

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Prof. Dr. Gerhard Thielcke	GNF Honorary President	+49 7732-9995-0

Review 2005

2005 started with disconcerting news from our partners in Sri Lanka and India which were hit by the Tsunami wave. Especially the natural wetlands around the lakes Maduganga and Madampe in the Galle district in Sri Lanka were severely affected by the Tsunami. Luckily the staff of our partner organisation remained uninjured, and with financial support of GNF, immediately started with restoration measures and environmental education activities. Urgently needed are accommodation facilities, fishing boats and nets to earn a living. Our partners will also help reafforest the protecting mangrove forests and establish new conservation centres to inform people about the value of intact natural ecosystems.

The Nagenahiru Foundation located in Ambalangoda has established a mangrove tree nursery and started constructing a centre for environmental education. For 2006, GNF has planned, in co-operation with the partner organisations in India and Sri Lanka, a three year cross border project for reconstruction work in the Tsunami damaged regions.

In 2005, GNF has already successfully carried out following events and actions.

Nature Conservation Days 2005

The topic of the Nature Conservation Days 2005 was on sports and nature conservation, biodiversity and agriculture as well as on the consequences of the climate change.

GNF invited Gerd Wohlfahrt, representative of the newly associated Lithuanian Living Lakes member and founder of the Lithuanian conservation association ENOS, to give a lecture on the Labanoras pilot project and to compare it with the nature conservation work at Lake Constance. GNF participated in the event by organising an info stand on the Living Lakes network and a Tsunami relief action in favour of our lake partners in Sri Lanka.

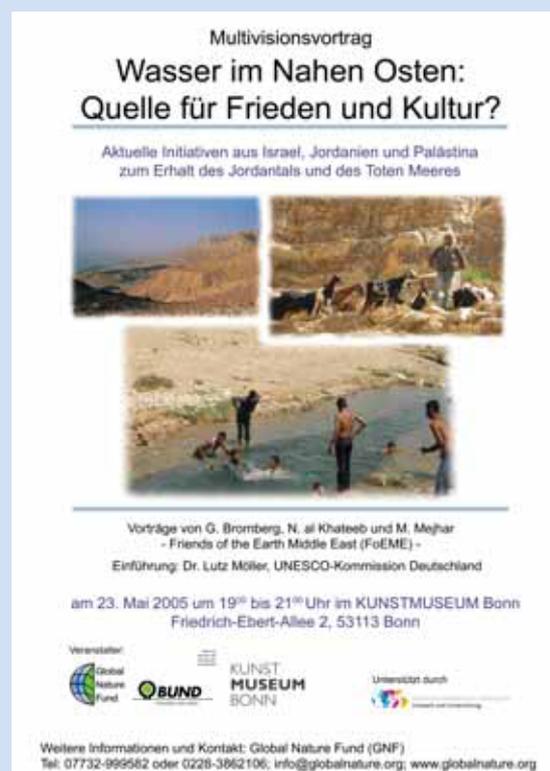
Marketplace of Alternative Travel 2005 (Reisepavillon)

Under the motto "Travelling to a Living Lakes country of alternative possibilities" four lake partners (from Russia, Hungary, Estonia and Bolivia) presented their lake regions on the Reisepavillon 2005 providing a lot of hints and detailed information on the landscape of Lake Baikal, Lake Balaton, the lakes Vörtsjärv and Peipsi as well as Lake Titicaca. Conservation initiatives in the South African Lake St. Lucia region were presented as well.

Information Days on Water Crisis in the Middle East

Twice a year nearly 500 million migrant birds can be seen flying along the Jordan River which years ago transported 1.3 billion cubic metres of water each year. Today, the river, which is the main tributary of the Dead Sea contains only a tenth of its original volume. The water is mainly used for agricultural purposes. The Dead Sea has already lost a third of its original surface area - an alarming development the three Directors from Friends of

Announcement of the Middle East event



Multivisionsvortrag
**Wasser im Nahen Osten:
 Quelle für Frieden und Kultur?**
 Aktuelle Initiativen aus Israel, Jordanien und Palästina
 zum Erhalt des Jordantals und des Toten Meeres

Vorträge von G. Bromberg, N. al Khateeb und M. Mejar
 - Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME) -
 Einführung: Dr. Lutz Möller, UNESCO-Kommission Deutschland

am 23. Mai 2005 um 19⁰⁰ bis 21⁰⁰ Uhr im KUNSTMUSEUM Bonn
 Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 2, 53113 Bonn

Veranstalter:
 Global Nature Fund, BUND, KUNST MUSEUM BONN, Unterstützt durch

Weitere Informationen und Kontakt: Global Nature Fund (GNF)
 Tel: 07732-999582 oder 0228-3862106; info@globalnature.org; www.globalnature.org

the Earth Middle East (FoEME), at Friends of the Earth Germany's and GNF's invitation, explained during their one-week visit in Germany in May 2005.

The FoEME representatives met with officials from the cities of Bonn and Cologne, they talked with UNESCO representatives, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation as well as NGOs and tour operators. The aim of the discussions was to comprehensively inform about the situation in Middle East, to identify common interests such as town twinning or generate support for Jordan river's nomination as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

"It is high time that Israel, Jordan and Palestine work together to protect the cultural and natural assets", says the Israeli Executive Director of FoEME Gidon Bromberg. The "information week" was financially supported by the foundation "Nordhein-Westfälische Stiftung für Umwelt und Entwicklung".

10th Living Lakes Conference

To find a balance between the use of lakes and the needs of the locals was one of the main issues of the 10th international Living Lakes Conference which was held at Lake Taal in the Philippines. Lakes in densely populated areas are severely threatened by waste water, traffic, water pollution and bank reinforcement. Numerous practical examples and case studies concerning sustainable use of water and our natural resources were of central interest to the over 200 experts from more than 25 countries who participated in the meeting. This year's "Living Lakes Best Conservation Practice Award" was awarded to the Federation of River Basil Council in the Laguna de Bay Region for their commitment to protect and preserve Laguna de Bay.

Transferable approaches, which will be of great help to lake communities involved, were presented. Many lakes of the world particularly in developing countries, due to population growth, face similar problems. To solve these problems and to combine successfully economical and ecological interests, the involvement of the business sector, the local population, media and nature protection organisations play a central role.

Participants of the 10th international Living Lakes Conference in the Philippines



With President Glora Macapagal-Arroyo, for the first time, the head of a host country, has attended a Living Lakes Conference. President Arroyo admitted that environmental protection was a condition precedent for economical development - an important milestone for the Asiatic insular state. Environmental protection has not been in the priority agenda of the Philippine government. GNF and CLEAR, the Philippine Living Lakes partner organisation, now hope for concrete improvement of the environmental situation in the Philippines.

After a short introduction the volunteers are able to help our partners to realise labour intensive conservation projects. On the other hand, the German young people get insight into the conservation work of other countries. Many of them are so enthusiastic that they join the Nature Summer Camps again or continue their environmental commitment in Germany. The Nature Summer Camps contribute considerably to raise environmental awareness among young people.

Nature Summer Camps

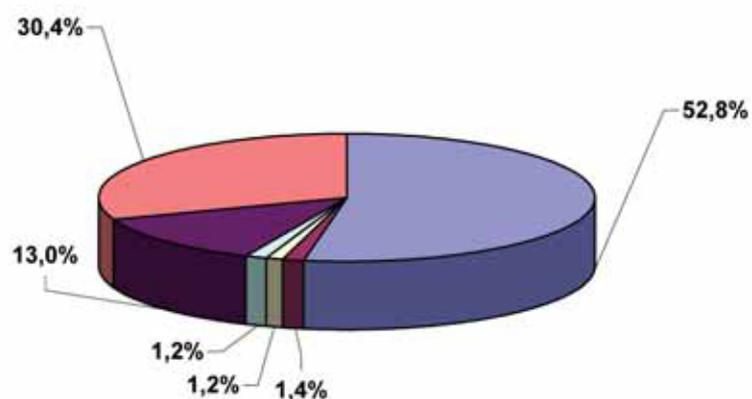
During the past two years, about 150 volunteers took part in the Nature Summer Camps in different lake regions world wide. This programme has been so successful that we will continue our co-operation with the business partners and organise in 2005, for the third time, Nature Summer Camps on Lake St Lucia (South Africa), Lake Poyang (China), Lakes Võrtsjärv and Peipsi (Estonia) and Lake Baikal (Russia).

Nature Summer Camp participants repairing an old landing stage at Lake Baikal in Russia



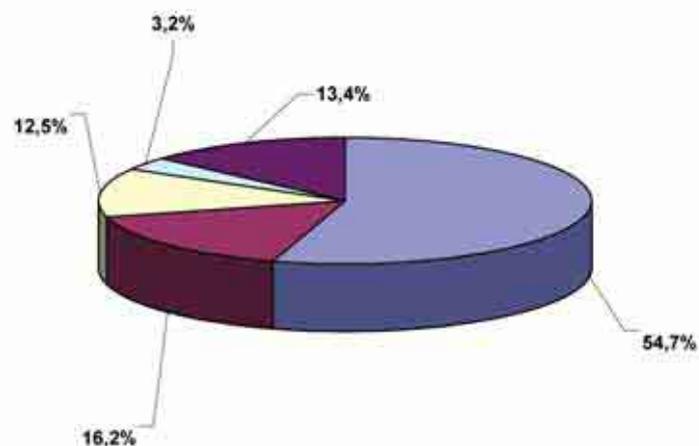
ACTIVA/Assets	EUR	EUR	2003 in TEUR	
I. Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets				
Office equipment	6.029,85		9,13	
Financial Assets				
1. Investments (Oeko Geno)	306,78		0,31	
2. Reinsurance pension fund	37.243,88		0,00	
3. Loans	<u>5.000,00</u>	48.580,51	<u>24,71</u>	34,15
II. Current Assets				
1. Cash in hand and cash at bank				
Cash	354,65		0,09	
Bank accounts	29.848,27		59,23	
Fixed term deposit, GLS-Bank	230.828,75		315,45	
Fixed term deposit, Ethikbank	95.996,97		0,00	
Transit money	0,00		0,00	
2. Receivables				
Receivables from suppliers and services	33.677,64			
Receivables from EU	80.000,00			
Other receivables	20.506,15		42,71	
Rent deposit	2.761,34		2,75	
3. Other assets				
Security paper (investments)	<u>209.484,11</u>	703.457,88	<u>213,23</u>	633,46
III. Active Adjustment		<u>1.913,24</u>		<u>0,02</u>
		<u>753.951,63</u>		<u>667,63</u>
PASSIVA/Liabilities				
I. Foundation Capital	195.000,00			
Payments to foundation capital	<u>90.000,00</u>	285.000,00		195,00
II. Balance carried forward per 01.01.2004	296.212,51		278,26	
Appropriation to reserves	<u>26.295,71</u>	322.508,22	17,95	296,21
III. Liabilities				
Trade payables	62.241,10		41,69	
Liabilities project grants	41.191,96		10,38	
Liabilities EU project	0,00		39,18	
Liabilities salaries and wages	10.215,35		13,17	
Other liabilities	869,86		10,07	
Liabilities VAT (7%)	<u>3.500,00</u>	118.018,27	0,00	114,49
IV. Provisions				
Retirement provisions	7.294,55		37,45	
Other provisions	<u>21.130,59</u>	28.425,14	23,94	61,39
V. Passive Adjustment		<u>0,00</u>		<u>0,54</u>
		<u>753.951,63</u>		<u>667,63</u>

Budget 2004 – Revenues in Euro



Donations	453.578	Interest	9.455
Fines	11.590	Other revenues	106.703
Dissolution of liabilities	10.000	Allowances	250.099
Sum		821.425	

Budget 2004 – Expenses in Euro



Projects	449.042	Appropriation to reserves	26.296
Expert conferences	133.317	Administration	110.129
Environmental education	102.642		
Sum		821.425	

Addresses of Living Lakes Partners

Co-ordination



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www.livingwetlands.org
www.solarschiff-netzwerk.org

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Lake St. Lucia; South Afrika

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Wildlands Conservation Trust
e-mail: ecopart@iafrica.com
Website: www.wildlands.co.za

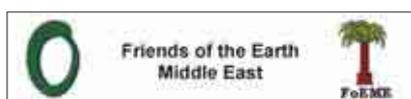
Lake Victoria; Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda



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ASIA

Dead Sea; Israel, Jordan and Palestine



FoEME - Friends of the Earth Middle East
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Website: www.foeme.org

Laguna de Bay; Philippines



CLEAR - Conservation of Laguna de Bay's
Environment and Resources
Tripartite Partnership of:



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Websites: www.psdn.org.ph/wetlands or
www.psdn.org.ph/clear



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Lake Constance; Germany, Switzerland, and Austria



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Milicz Ponds; Poland



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Nestos Lakes and Lagoones; Greece



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FIRN: 14r

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Fundación Humedales: 21r

German Environmental Aid: 29

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GOB: 24

Korgaljinski State Nature Reserve: 9l

Lake Constance Foundation: 19l

Lake Vörtsjärv Agency: 18r

MRLSD: 13l; 15

OSIENALA: 20

Peipsi CTC: 18l

pro Natura: 21l

Sociedad Amigos del Lago de Chapala, A. C.: 12, 17

Til Dietrich: 16

TRÓPICO: 9r

Wildlands Conservation Trust: 19r



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