



Annual Report **2005/2006**



**Man is part of nature,
not something contrasted with nature.**

Bertrand Russel

Content

	Preface	5
1	Presentation of the Global Nature Fund (GNF)	6
	Goals	6
	Structure	6
	Memberships	7
2	Project Living Lakes	8
	Partner Lakes	8
	Associate Partners	9
	New Associate Partners	9
3	Events and Activities	10
	Internationale Living Lakes Conference in the Philippines	10
	International Fair for Alternative Travel 2005	11
	Solar Schip Network	11
	Nature Conservation Days 2005	12
	Action Days Environment and Peace in the Middle East	12
	Action during the UN Days in Bonn: "You have a wish free"	13
	First African Regional Living Lakes Conference	13
	First Meeting of the Living Lakes Friend at Lake Constance	14
	Living Lakes designated UN Decade Project	14
4	Nature Summer Camps	15
5	"Kids for Birds" – Young People Protect Birds	16
6	Supported Projects	17
	Mahakam Wetlands; Indonesia	17
	Nestos Delta; Greece	18
	Lake Baikal; Russia	18
	Lake Victoria; Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda	19
	Lake Maduganga and Lake Madampe; Sri Lanka	21
	Laguna Fúquene; Colombia	21
	Lake Chapala, Mexico	22
	Lake Constance; Germany, Austria and Switzerland	22
	Pantanal; Brazil, Bolivia und Paraguay	23
	Lake Tengiz; Kazakhstan	24
	Project Preservation of Cultural Landscapes	25
7	PR Work	27
	Media Work	27
	Internet	28
8	Co-operations with Business Partners	28
9	Co-operations with National Institutions	31
10	Co-operations with International Institutions	32
11	Project Financing	33
	Donations	33
	Allocations	33
	Grants	33
	In-kind Donations	34
12	Overview 2006	35
13	Enclosures	37
	GNF-Office	37
	Annual Accounts 2005	38
	Addresses of Living Lakes Partners	41
	Imprint and Picture Credits	46

Preface



Dear Reader,

Additionally to the intense exchange of experiences, the Living Lakes network is a platform for common projects between the partner organisations. Practical on-site projects are one of our strong points providing transferable know-how and experiences.

FIRN, our Russian Living Lakes partner, and the British Broads Authority have worked together for two years to elaborate a co-operation project to protect the Selenga Delta at Lake Baikal. The idea was born in 2003 during the Living Lakes Conference in Great Britain when representatives of FIRN and Broads Authority met for the first time.

Goal of the project was the development and promotion of eco-tourism in the unique wetlands of the Selenga delta involving a great number of stakeholders. Selenga is the largest inflow into Lake Baikal. Thanks to the support, ideas and precious advice of the Broads Authority the project was successfully carried out – it was financially backed by DEFRA (UK-Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) within the frame of the Small Environmental Project Scheme (SEPS) of the British Council. In a letter to FIRN SEPS highlighted the great professionalism of the organisation, the importance of the projects for communities as well as the broad public involvement.

Study trips to Lake Baikal and the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads offered the participating project partners the opportunity to get to know each other on both at professional and personal level. A sense of team spirit developed among both organisations in so different parts of the world. The Living Lakes network is important for FIRN as it facilitates the exchange of experiences and collaboration with network partners at international level.

Also the GNF support of the judicial activities at Lake Chapala was crowned with success. As a result of a demand presented by IDEA (Institute of Environmental Law) and the Living Lakes partner organisations Fundación Cuenca Lerma Chapala and Amigos del Lago de Chapala, the application of Glyphosat, a highly toxic herbicide, at Lago de Chapala was suspended. Thanks to the efforts of the Living Lakes partners the court has – contrary to the conclusions of the environmental assessment study of the Mexican environmental authority SEMARNAT – taken seriously the danger of health hazards for the inhabitants of the megapolis Guadalajara who depend on drinking Lake Chapala water and the impact on the environment. In case of offence the court might immediately suspend the drinking water supply from Lake Chapala.

These are only a few examples of concrete achievements resulting from the collaboration between the Living Lakes partners – achievements that are worthwhile to invest time to file complicated grant applications, to convince economic partners and motivate individuals to donate us money. The widespread coordination of the network and the implementation of concrete projects were only possible thanks to the highly motivated team of the Global Nature Fund, and I would like to thank the team, the Board and all supporters and friends of the Global Nature Fund for their commitment.

For the Huicholes, a Mexican Indian tribe at Lago Chapala, lakes are mirrors of our society. Please help us protect lakes! With your support we will be able to improve the living conditions and hold the mirror up to the people who use the lake.



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 which was founded in 1998, and has its headquarters in Radolfzell/Bodensee (Lake Constance). It is an independent non-profit making foundation. The purpose of the foundation is to foster the conservation of nature and the environment as well as the protection of animal life.

The purpose of the foundation is realised by:

- The fostering of the protection of animals, especially by initiating and carrying out nature and environmental projects for the preservation of fauna and by protecting migrant species, their habitats and migratory routes,
- Environmental education, publications and meetings to issues of nature and environmental protection,
- Fostering international conventions on the protection of animals and species,
- The development of model projects for the promotion of sustainable economic growth,
- Fostering of international dialogue between environmental organisations, economy, authorities, politics and science.

Structure

The Global Nature Fund is a non-profit foundation organised under private law, which was founded in 1998 by six individuals. The Global Nature Fund was registered by the Senate Administration for Justice, Berlin, on 29 April 1998.

The assets of the foundation amount to € 357.638 on 31 December 2005. According to § 4 of the Charter the bodies of the foundation are the Board of Directors (Board) and the Founders Committee. The Board of the Global Nature Fund is elected for a period of four years. The Board administers the foundation in accordance with the charter on its own responsibility. The experience of the Board members in the fields of nature and environmental protection is very helpful for the work of the Global Nature Fund.

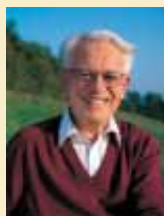
The Board members are:



Marion Hammerl
(President), Orsingen, Germany



Prof. Dr. Aitken Clark
(Vice-President),
Cambridge, England



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 monitors the management of the Board. The Founders Committee is composed of the founders and co-founders. In the event of a founder or co-founder being elected to the Board, he shall lose his seat on the Founders Committee during his period of office. The Founders advise the Board especially on financial management and fundraising activities.

The Founders Committee currently consists of (alphabetical order):

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

Co-founders are Dr. Renate Gehring and A. Ziemann GmbH. The co-founders have abandoned their right to vote in the Founders Committee.

According to § 9 of the Charter a Board of Trustees (Beirat) can be set up with the purpose of advising the Board on specialist matters. The Board presently is looking for qualified persons to become members of the Board of Trustees.

Memberships

The Global Nature Fund is member of following organisations:

- Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR)
- Bundesverband Deutscher Stiftungen
- Future e.V.
- ECOCAMPING e.V.
- Ecotrans e.V.
- FAN (Freshwater Action Network)

Lake Taal, Philippines



2 Project Living Lakes

Project Living Lakes



Living Lakes is a worldwide lakes partnership for the protection and restoration of lakes and wetlands as well as their catchment areas. Overall goal of Living Lakes is the preservation of all lakes and wetlands on Earth as intact ecosystems. We aim at achieving sustainable use of lakes avoiding or minimising disturbances of the eco-systems. Till now lakes protection is above all a matter of concern at regional/national level. Living Lakes provides its partner organisations a platform for in-

ternational dialog, exchange of knowledge and technology and fosters the implementation of Agenda 21 targets. Successful forums for the exchange of information and model approaches are the periodical international conferences.

Since its foundation in 1998 Living Lakes is growing continuously. Every year several lakes seek admission to the Living Lakes network. Currently it consists of 42 partner lakes. In 2005 Lake Paliastomi in Georgia became full member and Lake Trasimeno in Italy new associate Living Lakes partner. In 2006 the Ramsar site Mar Menor in Spain and the first Australian lake partner, the lagoon Wilson Inlet joined the network as associate members.



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; Brasil, 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 Paliastomi; Georgia
16. Lake Uluabat; Turkey
17. Dead Sea; Israel, Jordan and Palestine
18. Lake Victoria; Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda
19. Lake St. Lucia; South Africa
20. Tengiz Lake; Kazakhstan
21. Lake Baikal; Russia
22. Lake Poyang; China
23. Laguna de Bay; Philippines
24. Mahakam Lakes; Indonesia
25. Lake Biwa; Japan
1. Honorary Lake: Wostok; Antarktica

Associate Partners

In 2003 GNF introduced the associate membership to allow organisations and lakes, which not fulfil the qualifications for full membership, to co-operate with the Living Lakes network. In the past years associate Living Lakes partners were very active and committed. They significantly contributed to successful co-operations and helped develop effective model projects.

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

The Columbia River Wetlands in Canada



New Associate Partners

2005: Lake Trasimeno; Italy

Lake Trasimeno is Italy's fourth largest lake and is located in Umbria. As the lake has neither natural inflows nor outlets it is fed solely by rain water. The water level strongly fluctuates. In summer the low water level leads to algae growth. As the shores are sparsely inhabited some rare animal species such as Little Bittern, Kingfisher and Great Bittern are found in the lake region. Fish is the main income source of the local fishermen. In the past years tourism significantly developed and the number of visitors increased considerably – also the activities on and around the lake increased. Both the provincial government of Perugia and the local communities strive for sustainable development of the region.

2006: Mar Menor; Spain

Mar Menor with a surface of 135 sq. km is the largest saline inland water in Europe and lies in the province of Murcia in the southeast of Spain. La Manga, a 24 km long sandbank, the width of it amounts to 100 m only, separates Mar Menor from the Mediterranean. La Manga is an important tourism centre of the region and covered with buildings. In the water of Mar Menor live some threatened species such as Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*). The area around Mar Menor is an ideal nesting and wintering place for a great number of birds. The exploitation of the small water resources is a real problem at Mar Menor. The

Lake Trasimeno is the fourth largest lake in Italy



3 Events and Activities

groundwater is pumped up for agricultural purposes and drinking water supply. As a consequence, many wells are too salty. Besides the high population density the entry of pesticides from intensive agriculture negatively affects the water quality of Mar Menor. The Living Lakes partner is the foundation "Fundación del Mar Menor – CLUSTER", founded in 2005

2006: Wilson Inlet; Australia

Wilson Inlet is the first Living Lakes partner on the Australian continent. Wilson Inlet is a seasonally closed estuary on the south coast of Western Australia. A sand bar isolates the estuary from the Southern Ocean for about half of the year. A lot of water fowl visit Wilson Inlet. The main problem of Wilson Inlet is eutrophication through nutrient intake from rural and urban areas. The main sources of pollution are the use of fertilizers on pasture and agricultural fields as well as intensive stock-breeding. The Green Skills organisation is committed to the protection and preservation of Wilson Inlet.

The Ocean Beach at Wilson Inlet in summer



Events and Activities

International Living Lakes Conference in the Philippines

From 15 to 19 May 2005 the 10th Living Lakes Conference took place in the Philippines. Over 200 representatives from environmental organisations, businesses and research establishments from more than 30 countries attended the meeting. The experts discussed the question if effective nature protection and conservation is also possible in densely populated regions. Lakes are very attractive residential areas as they provide transport possibilities, water and food. For these reasons lakes are among the most seriously threatened habitats on earth.

The Living Lakes Conference was jointly organised by GNF and the Philippine partner organisation CLEAR (Conservation of Laguna de Bay's Environment and Resources). With President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, for the first time, the head of state of a host country took part in a Living Lakes Conference. President Arroyo admitted that environmental protection was a condition precedent for the economic development. This acknowledgment is a milestone for the Asian insular state. In her speech the Philippine President underlined the importance of the Living Lakes network and praised this initiative for its international lakes protection. President Arroyo announced the intention to implement first effective measures against uncontrolled settlement in the ecologically important Laguna de Bay shoreline. The Living Lakes partner CLEAR will play a leading role. Second important focus of the conservation measures for Philippine's

The winners of the Living Lakes award 2005



largest lake is effective treatment of household waste water which causes more than half of the polluting load entering the lake.

Prof. Dr. Manfred Niekisch, Vice-President of the German League for Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection, emphasised in his opening speech that the people accept and respect protected areas only if they bring them concrete benefit despite their protection. During a panel discussion practical case studies of sustainable development from all over the world were presented and discussed.

In 2005, the "Living Lakes prize for outstanding practical nature conservation" was awarded to the Federation of River Basil Council in the Laguna de Bay Region. Since 1998 the GNF awards this prize to persons and organisations particularly committed to the protection of nature and environment. The conference was supported by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN).

International Fair for Alternative Travel 2005 (Reisepavillon)

"Travelling to the Living Lakes country of alternative possibilities" was the motto of the GNF partner organisations for the presentation of their respective countries at the Reisepavillon 2005. In total 280 exhibitors from 50 countries showed a broad spectrum of alternative travel possibilities. A large number of visitors, exhibitors and tour operators attended the attractive slide show about "Living Lakes". Living Lakes partners from Russia, Hungary, Estonia and Bolivia gave an overview of fas-

inating nature destinations in their countries, such as Lake Balaton and the Siberian Lake Baikal as well as the pristine landscape and traditions at the Estonian Lake Võrtsjärv, among others.

Solar Ship Network



The Global Nature Fund has launched the Solar Ship Network Germany to promote the use of renewable energies in lake regions. In the years 2004 and 2005 the project was funded by the Federal Ministry for Environment (BMU) and the Federal Environmental Agency (UBA) and underlines the advantages and potentials of this innovative mobility form. The goals of the network are the improvement of the collaboration among the network members and intense and co-ordinated PR work. A strong solar boat lobby for solar powered boats should be created and joint action of all actors be achieved. After the end of the project run GNF will continue the network to transfer the experiences made with solar boats in Germany to other lake regions in Europe.

About 20 businesses, constructors, organisations and solar initiatives are members in the Solar Ship Network. Regular workshops are being held to exchange practical experiences among operators and constructors of solar ships and discuss current basic conditions for the operation and use of solar ships. A common platform for the solar ship branch was developed to inform comprehensively the public about offers of the solar ship branch. A

GNF information booth at Reisepavillon 2005



Workshop of Solar Ship Network



new internet site www.solarschiff-netzwerk.org provides information on solar ship offers and performances as well as ferry and excursion schedules. Also details on charter boating cruises and background information on solar ships are available. An attractive information brochure complements the offer.

During their meetings in Berlin, Frankfurt and at Lake Constance the members of the Solar Ship Network founded the work group "Marketing". This work group organised different events to inform about the network e.g. on the INTERBOOT Fair at Friedrichshafen, Lake Constance, and various other fairs and solar events such as ITB in Berlin, boot Fair in Düsseldorf, Intersolar in Freiburg, Reise pavillon (International Fair for Alternative Travel) held in Hanover and the 8th international solar conference in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. On these occasions concrete uses of solar ships in Germany and Europe in the fields of tourism and environmental education were presented.

Nature Conservation Days 2005

From 6 to 9 January 2005 the traditional Nature Conservation Days took place in Radolfzell. Following issues were discussed among others: Sport and Conservation, Biodiversity and Agriculture as well as Effects of the Climate Change. Gerd Wohlfahrt, founder of the nature organisation ENOS (European Nature Protection and Ornithological Station) in Lithuania gave a lecture on the topic "The Labanoros pilot project in Lithuania – in comparison with conservation at Lake Constance". The conservationist who originally comes from the Lake Constance region, pointed out many parallels to

the conservation initiatives in the Labanoros regional park, a unique mosaic of lakes, wetlands and raised bogs.

At the information desk participants were informed on the Living Lakes network and had the possibility to take part in a relief action in favour of the flood victims in Sri Lanka.

Action Days Environment and Peace in the Middle East

To call attention to the progressive drying up of the Dead Sea and the Jordan river, its main tributary, GNF and Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND), with the support of the Westphalian Foundation for Environment and Development, invited several experts from Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME) to Germany in May 2005. During their one-week stay the experts from the Middle East had numerous talks with officials from Bonn and Cologne, the International Rhine Commission, the Federal Nature Conservation Agency as well as environmental organisations and tour operators. Goal of the visit in Germany was to inform about the situation in Middle East, to develop town partnerships and to promote the nomination of the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea as UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Jordan water is used by Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and the Palestine Westbank. Today the lower reaches of the Jordan river contain only a tenth of the original water volume. As there is almost no inflow into the Dead Sea, the water level of the Living Lakes partner lake drops every year by 1 metre on average. The three directors from FoE-

The Dead Sea is in danger of drying up



Munqeth Meyhar (m.), Jordan Executive Director of FoEME, explains the water situation at the Dead Sea



ME highlighted this drastic situation. *“Ironically it is the untreated wastewater that keeps the river Jordan alive”*, says Munqeth Nmeyhar, the Jordan Director of FoEME. *“Otherwise the Jordan river would be running dry during the summer months”*.

In order to stress the necessity of co-operation among the abutters to improve the water situation, FoEME organised a Big Jump along the Jordan river on 10 July 2006. Big Jump is a Europe wide initiative of the European River Network (ERN). Mayors from Palestine, Jordan and Israel, in a concerted action, jumped into the Jordan, to call attention to the catastrophic ecological situation of the river.

Action during the UN Days in Bonn: “You have a wish free“

“You have a wish free“ was the motto of the GNF during the Day of the United Nations. The visitors were asked to write down their wishes and suggestions on a huge water drop made from paper. 100 wishes were collected and sent to Kenya to the Living Lakes partner at Lake Victoria. There the wishes were presented during the first African Living Lakes Conference.

“We collected all suggestions and wishes to draw attention to the vital importance of clean water. Additionally we wanted to show the inhabitants of the Lake Victoria region that people from richer countries are interested in their problems and take the millennium targets seriously”, so Stefan Hörmann, GNF project manager. Worldwide still 1,2 billion people have no access to clean drinking water. In the millennium targets all UN member states committed themselves to halving this number by 2015.

Visitors write down their wishes in terms of water use



First African Regional Living Lakes Conference

In the run-up to the 11th World Lakes Conference, under the motto “Our lakes, basis for life – sustainable management of African lakes” the Living Lakes network organised the first African Regional Conference in Kenya, Lake Victoria, from 27 to 30 October 2005. During this meeting NGOs committed to the protection and management of lakes in Africa had the opportunity to get into contact. African and international environmentalists discussed issues such as sustainable fishery and the use of renewable energies in African lake regions. Experts came from Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika, Lake Tana, Lake St Lucia as well as Lake Constance and Lake Biwa.

The Conference was supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and GTZ (German Society for Technical Co-operation). Since 2005 the Swiss Sika company has supported concrete projects at Lake Victoria.

During the conference the newly developed solar lamps were presented to the public for the first time. Members of the Kenyan environmental organisation OSIENALA developed solar lamps, which are fixed on a mini wooden float and which replace the kerosene lamps traditionally used by fishermen. The solar lamps are used by the fishermen for the catch of the Victoria sardine (*Rastrineobola argentea*). Every night about 5,000 native fishermen are fishing on Lake Victoria. The bright light of the solar lamps attracts the finger-sized sardines which are dried in the sun on the soil the next day. Kerosene lamps have many disadvantages: leaking

Demonstration of the new solar lamps in Kenya



kerosene pollutes soil and water, additionally the price of the fossil energy source is extremely high. About 6 to 8 litres kerosene each fishermen uses per night i.e. up to 50 % of his income is eaten up by the kerosene bill. With the innovative solar lamps GNF and OSIENALA offer the natives an interesting alternative to the traditional kerosene technology, an example to follow. Also Living Lakes projects in other countries shall promote the use of solar lamps for the catch of fish and prawn.

First Meeting of the Living Lakes Friends at Lake Constance

In September 2005, the Global Nature Fund welcomed a group of long-standing donors to a three day visit in Radolfzell at Lake Constance and presented current projects and activities of the Living Lakes Network. The donors were informed of successful projects worldwide GNF was able to carry out thanks to their financial commitment. On a solar boat trip the participants were informed of the work of the nature conservancy organisations at Lake Constance und the campaign to promote the region as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A slide show about the targets and tasks of the international foundation as well as a visit at the Lake Constance Water Supply on the top of the Sipplingen mountain underlined the necessity to effectively protect water. Lake Constance Water Supply provides drinking water for about 5 million people. An excursion to the Wollmatinger Ried, a wetland of European importance, allowed the guests to watch different bird species. The programme concluded with a visit to the Island of Reichenau, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Living Lakes designated UN Decade Project

For its Living Lakes achievements GNF was designated as a decade project of the UN Decade "Education for sustainable development" for the years 2006 and 2007. The UN Decade distinguishes projects that contribute to provide people educational opportunities to acquire knowledge, projects which strive for a future worth living and the preservation of our livelihood for future generations.

Solarboat tour of the Living Lakes friends at Lake Constance



4 Nature Summer Camps

Nature Summer Camps

The “Nature Summer Camps” demonstrate an innovative approach of collaboration between businesses and environmental organisations. Already for the third time young staff members from the two long-standing GNF business partners Daimler Chrysler and Lufthansa actively took part in diverse environmental and conservation projects.

The young people spent two to four weeks in Living Lakes regions of Africa, Asia and Europe and worked closely together with our partners on site. They experienced foreign languages and cultures and got to know people in a very unconventional manner. Besides their work in conservation projects the participants gained insight into environmental problems of their respective host countries and in their answers to the difficulties.

Nature Summer Camp Destinations 2005

At **Lake Poyang**, the largest freshwater lake in China, the volunteers helped our partner organisation MRLSD repair a bird watching centre, collect rubbish and remove introduced plants in a World Heritage Site. They also carried out environmental education activities for farmers and together with Chinese students prepared an exhibition about the environment, which was presented to the public in the provincial capital of Nanchang.

The summer camp participants in South Africa helped the Wildland Conservation Trust to make an inventory of the threatened wild animals in the game reserves. They worked in the Crocodile Centre and helped to remove foreign plants in the primeval forests at **Lake St. Lucia**.

In Siberia, at **Lake Baikal**, the German environmentalists were busy with repair work at a campground in the Zabaikalsky National Park, they helped establish a new eco park, put up signs and repair nature trails as well as bank reinforcements. Our Russian Living Lakes partners GRAN and FIRN took care of the young people.

In Estonia the participants worked at **Lake Võrtsjärv** and in the nature reserve of Alam-Pedja. The large floodplains and swamp forests are still nearly untouched by humans. The participants also helped restore amphibian habitats, maintain semi-natural habitats and established a nature trail.

Young Germans and Chinese nature summer camp participants at Lake Poyang



Volunteers establishing nature trails in Estonia



5 Kids for Birds

"Kids for Birds" – Young People protect Birds

The goal of the project is to spark the children's and young people's interest in the importance of their environment and the protection of the indigenous birds in the regions of Lake Constance (Radolfzell and Ravensburg), Germany, as well as in the Living Lakes regions of the East European countries Estonia (Lake Võrtsjärv) and Poland (Milicz Ponds). Another purpose of the project is to enthuse them about practical environmentalism. Target group: Children from 6 to 12 years. Teachers as well as youth group leaders in the project regions are invited to take part in this initiative and to discover the "classroom nature".

In the context of a model excursion, background knowledge and methodology will be imparted, teaching material, worksheets and tutorials for games will be explained and handed out.

One of the most important goals and an exciting experience for the youth is the observation and identification of the local birds over the different seasons. Furthermore children will be given an understanding of their natural environment in a playful manner and will be instructed in the meaning of an intact ecosystem as well as in the different adaptations of animals to their habitats. Also a creative competition for children and young people as well as a summer festival will be held.

Further training seminars for teachers and youth group leaders will allow expert knowledge transfer. Teaching material and master copies are distributed and facilitate the realisation of the "classroom nature". At the end of the project guidelines will be published containing expert and didactic advice for teachers and youth group leaders how to organise "Kids for Birds" excursions in other regions.

This environmental initiative will be co-ordinated by GNF in co-operation with the local BUND group Ravensburg, BUND Möggingen (Radolfzell) as well as with the two East European nature organisations Estonian Fund for Nature und Pro Natura Poland.

This project is supported by Stiftung Naturschutzfonds (Conservation Fund) using earmarked Glücksspirale lottery profits as well as by the initiative "Aktion Mensch" (Action Man) within the scope of "Aktion 5000xZukunft".

Young naturalist observing nature bird species



Supported Projects

The support of concrete projects in the partner regions is an important part of Living Lakes and the project "Preservation of Cultural Landscapes". Upon request GNF supports concrete projects of partners especially in developing countries. That makes it possible to implement unique and transferable model projects for nature and environmental protection. Due to the valuable support of our donors and institutions it was possible to carry out several projects successfully in Indonesia, Greece, Russia, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Colombia, Mexico, Germany, Brazil, Kazakhstan and Spain in the year 2005.

Mahakam Wetlands; Indonesia

In 2005, the Indonesian organisation RASI (Rare Aquatic Species of Indonesia) received € 7000 from the Global Nature Fund for the protection of the Mahakam Wetlands in the eastern part of Kalimantan (Borneo). Within the scope of the comprehensive protection programme a scientifically and legally founded land use planning for the wetland and its catchment area was developed. Protected areas for birds and river dolphins were established and fish spawning grounds put under protection.

With the financial support of the Global Nature Fund a biodiversity study was carried out. This study shows that the Jempang Lake in the Mahakam Wetlands possesses the highest biodiversity although the riparian vegetation along the Mahakam River is already highly disturbed. Open swamplands offer important habitats for waterfowl and breed-

ing birds. Especially in the dry season tidelands are an important source of food for migratory birds. However, many bird species are not under protection in Indonesia and are caught or shot. The biodiversity study has to be continued in the next year at an even bigger scale to obtain a better understanding of the of the bird population fluctuations. Public relation and environmental education measures complete the programme of the study.

A further study with socio-economic focus investigated the economical situation of fishermen's families in Indonesia and their attitude towards the protection of the endangered Irrawaddy dolphins and endangered fish species. In 13 villages more than 230 persons were interviewed in the Mahakam area. The analysis showed that the fish stock decreased in Eastern Kalimantan regarding both the biodiversity and the quantity. Reasons are the increasing exploitation of fish resources and lacking state control of catch quota. Clear-cutting and overexploitation of resources affected the coastal systems of Kalimantan massively. Due to water pollution and accumulation of sediments many riparian spawning grounds were destroyed.

As a result of this fact the fishermen showed comprehension for the necessary implementation of protected spawning grounds. Necessary measures for the protection of the endangered Irrawaddy dolphin were also evaluated positively by the residents along the river. The fishermen accept protection zones for the river dolphins if their fishing possibilities are not restricted drastically. Furthermore the fishermen were open-minded for new alternative catch methods.

Birds in the Mahakam Wetland need protected breeding sites



Great biodiversity in the Mahakam Wetland



Nestos Delta; Greece

In 2004, Global Nature Fund finalized successfully the EU-LIFE project "Sustainable Management of Wetlands and Shallow Lakes". Our partner EPO (Society for Protection of Nature and Ecodevelopment) in Greece developed a management plan for the Nestos region with the main focus on biotope and water management, restoration, extensive agriculture and sustainable tourism development. The measures tend to implement extensive agriculture and to promote a long-term improvement of the agriculture in the region. At the same time the environmental quality in the region should be preserved.

In spite of the project successes there are still parts of the project area which are not yet under protection. The Nestos National Park has no independent administration and no clearly defined protection areas. The unique lagoons and dunes in the Nestos delta are still threatened by agricultural effluents and illegal waste dumping. The dunes are not barred but destroyed by inconsiderate cruising. Thereby valuable breeding areas for the Spurwinged Plover and other wading birds are lost.

Therefore GNF provided € 9000 for the work of EPO in the year 2005 to enable the organisation to continue the urgently needed renaturation measures and the protection of the breeding areas. Several swimming breeding islands for terns were installed at the lagoons and in the Nestos estuary. After only a short time this aid was accepted by more than 130 couples of Common Tern and Little Terns. In winter and migration times these islands serve as resting places for Little Egret, waders and terns.

Recently a representative of EPO was nominated as the official NGO representative in the management board of the national park. He now has the opportunity to convince the authorities and the national park administration to realise the recommendations of the management plan, which comprise not only the wetland restoration but also the agricultural and tourism development for the whole park. Much work was done to develop and to improve the new national park regulations of the Ministry of Environment, to check closely the environmental impact assessment and to prepare measures for the protection and management of the park.

Lake Baikal; Russia

In 2005, both Russian Living Lakes partner organisations GRAN and FIRN, received grants amounting to € 7000. FIRN continues intensively its work for the protection of the Baikal seal. At the few seal observation points camouflage nets were installed in order not to disturb the animals by scientists and nature tourists observing the seals. In spring 2006 a seminar with hunters will be realized to inform them about the threats the rare Baikal seal is facing and to increase the understanding for the protection measures. We will report about the results of this sensitisation campaign in the next annual report.

The Baikal Information Centre GRAN is mainly active in the field of environmental education. With the financial support of GNF, in 2006 concrete activities will be implemented. The campaign "Camera instead of rifle" is carried out in Sukhaja, a small fishing village on the Eastern shore of the Baikal Lake.

Breeding Mediterranean Gulls in the Nestos Delta



Cleaning of a well near Lake Baikal



The village population faces huge economic problems. The low income is often supplemented by illegal poaching. As the fur prices for young seals are relatively low, a large number of them is hunted. A several week campaign shall raise the interest of tourists for this attractive region. The demand for accommodation, food and nature guides provides a new income possibility for the people in Sukhaja and therewith alternatives to the seal hunt. Tourists become acquainted with Buryat traditions and can accompany the natives to the observation points. "Hunting with the camera" allows higher incomes and assures the survival of the rare animals as a long-term perspective.

At Lake Baikal there is a multitude of mineral springs with special medical effects. A total of 1,750 different medicinal herbs are growing there among them licorice (*Glycyrrhiza glabra*). However, the condition of many springs is bad. Pollution and overuse led to drying up and the loss of mineral wells and useful plants. GRAN is carrying out cleaning activities together with pupils and is developing a brochure pointing out the sustainable use of the mineral springs and the herb fields. 200 children, adolescents and adults from the surrounding villages participate in the activities.

Lake Victoria; Kenya Tanzania and Uganda

Protecting Lake Victoria through the sun

Lake Victoria is shared by three countries: Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. With its surface of 68,800 square kilometres it is the second largest lake in the world. More than 30 million people live in its catchment area. Lake Victoria was very famous for

its extremely diverse species – about 400 to 500 species – and multifaceted fish habitats. However, many of these species became extinct until today.

The reason for the dramatic decline of species was the introduction of the predacious Nile Perch which measures up to two metres. In the 1980s, the Nile perch began to show a dramatic rise in quantity. In fact, the Nile Perch should bring economic advantages and supply the rural population with fish. The business with the Nile Perch, also known as Victoria Perch, resulted in an ecological and social disaster.

Since the predacious fish has devoured nearly the whole tilapia stock, a lot of fisher families lost their livelihood. *"Only 40 years ago there were more than 500 fish species in the lake, among them you could find about two dozens on the markets – today only some species are sold"*, tells Dr. Obiero Ong'ang'a from the Living Lakes partner organisation OSIENALA. *"Although the sensitive ecological balance is already disturbed massively the majority of the people at Lake Victoria live directly from fishing"*, says Ong'ang'a.

In this context, the Victoria sardine is the most important nutrition basis of the native population. It is one of the few fish species who survived the hunger of the Nile Perch. Each night thousands of fishermen are attracting the finger-sized sardines with kerosene lamps fixed on wooden floaters, the next day they are dried in the sun.

The kerosene lamps have many disadvantages: leaking fuel pollutes soil and water, damages plants and animals. A fisherman has to spend up to 50 percent of his income for the expensive kerosene. Conservationists agree that the lake will not survive if nothing is done for its protection soon.

OSIENALA-information centre at Lake Victoria



Environmental education at Lake Victoria



Therefore GNF and OSIENALA together with the support of the German Association for Technical Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit/GTZ) and the Baden-Württemberg Foundation (LANDESSTIFTUNG Baden Württemberg) are carrying out comprehensive environmental measures at Lake Victoria. Energy efficient solar lamps and suitable batteries were fixed on the wooden rafts instead of the problematic kerosene lamps. During daytime the batteries are connected to a solar station and recharged. Training courses for fishermen are organised to impart knowledge concerning the maintenance and use of the solar systems. The activities are accompanied by a simple financing system. The "Beach Bank", founded by OSIENALA, provides low interest small credits for the acquisition of solar driven lamps and smoking kilns. The bankers visit the villages which are hardly accessible and inform the fishermen about effective financing possibilities.

Sitatunga Antelope and Hippo Project

Sitatunga Antelopes, also called water kudus, and hippos are semi aquatic animals that live amongst others in the wetlands around Lake Victoria. These wetlands are seriously endangered by agriculture and loss of surface. If the wetlands disappear the animal species living in this area do not have any chance to survive. OSIENALA campaigns to establish a protection area for Sitatungas and hippos. There tourists and above all the native pupils and the rural population shall get the possibility to observe and estimate the threatened animals. We already reported on these activities in our last annual report.

In the scope of the project which is supported by the GNF with € 6000 a department for environmental education could be installed in the office of OSIENALA and an experienced teacher is responsible for the environment sector where environmental information is prepared and spread by the OSIENALA centre and the Lake Victoria radio broadcasting station. Radio Lake Victoria is reaching more than 2 million people. For the preparation of learning modules OSIENALA works together with the teachers of local schools. Thus about 1,000 schools around Lake Victoria have already been instructed about their natural environment. 15 school classes have already visited the information centre.

Meanwhile the protection area is almost totally fenced and will be opened as soon as the vegetation is developed sufficiently to give enough protection and habitat to the Sitatungas. The footbridge for the hippo observation could be completed. Here the visitors and school classes can observe the hippos living in Lake Victoria and also the new boat can land safely which is bringing them to the resting places.

According to Dr. Obiero Ong'ang'a's opinion information and education of the young generation is the only way to assure the survival of the endangered animal species at Lake Victoria. Their sense of responsibility is of inestimable worth for the future development of Lake Victoria. Therefore OSIENALA has planned to extend the education programme to other schools around the lake. The project shall also be carried out in Uganda and Tanzania in a similar frame.

The Beach Bank at Lake Viktoria grants small loans



OSIENALA strives for the establishment of a reserve for the Sitatunga Antelope



Lake Maduganga and Lake Madampe; Sri Lanka

After the devastating Tsunami catastrophe on 26 December, 2004 the Global Nature Fund acted fast and supported its two partner organisations in Sri Lanka in their efforts to reconstruct and the restore the livelihood of the affected population.

The regions around the Lakes Maduganga and Madampe on Sri Lanka's southwest coast were severely affected by the Tsunami. *"Houses were flushed away like cardboard boxes, boats and flews completely destroyed"*, says Lal Emmanuel from the partner organisation Nagenahiru Foundation in Ambalangoda.

In the beginning of the year 2005 GNF provided € 6.000 for the support of the regions affected by the Tsunami in Sri Lanka. With further private and corporate sponsorship donations, e.g. by the Swiss company Sika, mangrove nurseries and an education centre could be installed in the Maduganga region.

In December 2005 GNF obtained a grant from the European Commission to realize a comprehensive nature conservation project as a reconstruction measure in Sri Lanka. The main focus of the three year project is the restoration of endangered mangrove forests in the Bolgoda, Maduganga and Madampe regions. Mangroves are adapted in a special way to life conditions in brackish estuaries and salty coastal zones, and therefore are unique habitats. Nowhere else such a diversity and abundance of freshwater and saltwater species, oceanic and terrestrial organisms is found.

A few weeks later the project already showed visible success. In Pathamulla another new tree nursery was established. 19 families are integrated in the project and have already planted over 2,000 mangrove trees. An education centre was set up on Madaduwa island at Lake Maduganga. Several hundred pupils and students were informed about the importance of nature conservation in their region. Two other environmental education centres will inform the population, pupils and students about important protective functions of the newly planted mangroves. The villagers will be intensively involved in the care of the newly planted mangroves. The Nagenahiru Foundation awards dedicated mangrove nursery employees for their commitment to nature conservation. In the scope of the project boats and flews were handed over to the affected fishermen families in the Madampe region. In a further step model houses and model farms and a biological sewage treatment plant based will be built. The results of the model projects will be transferred to other countries in Southeast Asia, e.g. Thailand, Indonesia, and South India.

Laguna Fúquene; Colombia

Laguna Fúquene in Colombia provides drink-ing water for 200,000 people. The population makes a living from agriculture, stock farming and fishing. The rich biodiversity of the lake is threatened by excessive withdrawal of water, introduced fish species and strong water pollution. Until now the lake has no protection status. Therefore our partner organisation Fundación Humedales is lobbying for official approval of the lake as Ramsar wetland of international importance.

GNFs Executive Director Udo Gattenlöhner visiting project areas in Sri Lanka



Newly established mangrove nursery



Since several years Fundación Humedales is running an information centre in the Colombian Andes. Together with fishermen, artisans and stockowners, regular workshops are organised to inform about current protection measures and to discuss occurring problems. It was urgent to renovate the centre, check the installations and establish a new environmental division. GNF provided a grant of € 6000 for this purpose. With this amount, additionally to the restoration works, a new exposition area with learning boards, photos and showcases on over 100 square metres was established. Furthermore new information materials for the locals and visitors of the area were developed. They explain the ecological value of the lake and contribute to raise the awareness of the people for the protection of the lake. As a next step local schools and other villages in the catchment area will be addressed and involved in the measures within the scope of an environmental campaign.

Lake Chapala; Mexico

The persistent efforts of the Mexican Living Lakes partner organisations Fundación Cuenca Lerma and Amigos del Lago at Lake Chapala show first success – the court suspended the application of the Glyphosat herbicide at Lake Chapala. Glyphosat is a strongly toxic herbicide which may damage liver and kidney and causes cancer. It is used to limit the growth of aquatic weed in the lake.

Contrary to the conclusions of the environmental assessment study of the Mexican environmental authority SERMANAT the court acknowledges the danger of health hazards for the population drinking Lake Chapala water, e.g. for the Guadalajara metropolis.

Information centre of the Fundación Humedales in the Colombian Andes



In case of offence the court might immediately stop the drinking water supply from Lake Chapala.

Raquel Gutiérrez Nájera, Director of the Environment Institute IDEA, closely co-operates with the two Living Lakes partners and elaborated a report regarding the impacts of Glyphosat-containing herbicides. The report is based on experiences made in other affected Living Lakes regions, e.g. at the Laguna Fúquene in Colombia.

On the basis of this report a fisherman at Lago de Chapala filed a complaint against the Mexican environmental authority. A bailment of 300,000 Pesos which is about € 22,000 was necessary – too much for the fisherman. GNF contributed a partial amount. Both Living Lakes partners are now asking for donations worldwide to raise the amount.

Lake Constance; Germany, Austria and Switzerland

One of the main goals of the Lake Constance Foundation (Bodensee-Stiftung) is sustainable development in lake regions. Based on this target the idea of a Lake Constance UNESCO World Heritage Site was born. The application for the UNESCO can only be made if the heads of government of the three abutters unanimously agree to it – at Lake Constance through IBK (International Lake Constance Conference). To accompany and accelerate this long process the Lake Constance Foundation obtained a grant of € 15,000 from GNF in the year 2005. The main objective of the UNESCO campaign was to inform the population about the UNESCO cultural landscape, in particular about chances, risks, rights and duties, and to collect opinions from important stakeholders.

The Mexican Lake Chapala provides drinking water for millions of people



The Lake Constance Foundation carried out comprehensive investigations with the main focus on agriculture, tourism, nature conservation and economy and on this basis the “Impulspapier Pro UNESCO-Kulturlandschaft Bodensee“ (Incentive Paper Pro UNESCO Cultural Landscape) was established. Eight round tables for about 130 persons were held; several information booths and 40 publicity raising events were carried out. The representatives of the IBK were invited to all events. The information campaign was accompanied by intensive public relations work. Monthly reports called “Neue Bodensee Hefte“ gave a current overview about the status of the initiative. Also TV and radio reported about the campaign. IBK was informed of the results and a final report established. Despite all endeavours from the Lake Constance Foundation and the positive feedback of the population the idea of the UNESCO cultural landscape was rejected by a vote of the government chiefs of the abutters in December 2005.

The Lake Constance Foundation will continue the work in the field of a sustainable development for the Lake Constance region and will also continue the development of IBK’s Lake Constance overall concept. Here the “Impulspapier Pro UNESCO-Kulturlandschaft Bodensee“ can provide a good service, because a lot of themes have already been discussed and investigated and partly coordinated with the concerned stakeholders.

Pantanal; Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay

With 140,000 square kilometres the Pantanal is the world’s largest wetland. It possesses an immense

The Lake Constance Foundation strives for the recognition of Lake Constance as UNESCO world heritage site



biodiversity amongst others the Hyacinth Macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*), world’s largest parrot, is native in this region. The Hyacinth Macaw nests in huge tree caves and is severely threatened by illegal commerce and environmental changes. Its reproduction period is overlapping the reproduction periods of many other bird species resulting in a harsh competition for breeding places. The Macaw project of the Instituto Arara Azuel not only cares for the natural nests but also for the installation of artificial nests.

In 2005, the organisation observed 227 nests situated in the Pantanal from Miranda, Rio Negro/ Aquidauana and in Bonito City, amongst them 57 percent natural and 43 percent artificial nests. In the period 2004 to 2005 70 chicks hatched out, one quarter of them was killed due to nest robbing or a natural death. 45 chicks were observed and marked with microchips or numerated metal bands, furthermore genetic material was extracted to get information about DNA, sex and their health conditions. The sleeping places of the Hyacinth Macaw were counted and their feeding grounds observed.

Also environmental education activities continued. Therefore biologists and graduates were educated for the field studies and a part of the project team participated in further education courses. Furthermore capacity building in the ecotourism sector was offered. Also innumerable lectures in the Hyacinth Macaw Visitors Centre in Caiman were held and the environmental education with and for children was advanced. The lectures were held for pupils from public and private schools as well as employees from the Toyota factories in the state of São Paulo. The lectures and workshops were not only organised in the Pantanal, but also in Brazil and Los Angeles (USA).

The Hyacinth Macaw is the largest parrot world wide



For public dissemination of the project different groups of the media sector in Brazil and abroad were invited, scientific studies were presented at national and international events and also articles for the general public were published in newspapers, magazines, TV, videos and in the internet in several countries. Furthermore photos of the Hyacinth Macaw will be printed on telephone cards of the Brazil telephone company Telecom, the editing date, however, is not fixed yet. 2004 and 2005 Neiva Geuedes, staff member of Instituto Arara Azul, received three awards as acknowledgement of her dedicated work for the protection of the Hyacinth Macaw. This is an award for all team members which support the project.

Lake Tengiz; Kazakhstan

The bigger part of Lake Tengiz located in Kazakhstan's steppe possesses a nature conservation status since many years. The lake is home to numerous animal and plant species, among them also threatened species such as the Saiga antelope, Dalmatian Pelican and the Steppe Eagle. However, their habitat is still endangered by human influences. Direct and indirect threats are water extraction, illegal hunting of protected animals and the installation of power lines around the lake. These power lines are life threatening traps for many steppe birds. The Saiga antelope is nearly extinct through poaching and habitat restriction.

In our last annual report we already reported about GNF's second fundraising campaign. An amount of € 5,000 could be transferred to NABU (BirdLife

Germany), the project co-ordinator. As a preparation to the project several talks took place, e.g. in the agro-technical university of Astana. Thereupon an action plan for the bird protection against the power lines was developed. The plan includes five activity sections, among them inventory and situation analysis, possibilities of the manufacturing and installation of bird protection devices for power lines in Kazakhstan and the preparation of a demonstration line with "canopies" in Korgalzhynskij Rajon (Akmolinskaja Oblast). Moreover the lobby and public relations work to raise awareness of the power line problem and the preparation of project applications to finance of the demonstration line were planned.

A further project is the production of a animated cartoon about the Saiga antelope. The cartoon is currently being produced by the film studio "Master" in Chimkent (South Kazakhstan). Before a call for tenders and an arts competition for the best script and the most appealing character of the main figure was made. The submitted works of art were presented in an exhibition in Almaty as well as in Astana, capital of Kazakhstan. To offer collaboration to a wide audience the film script is available not only in Russian but also in German. End of September 2006 the first version of the film should be presented on a conference in Kazakhstan where conservation measures for the Saiga antelope will be discussed.

The Pantanal is world's largest wetland



Greater Flamingo in flight at Lake Tengiz in Kazakhstan



Project Preservation of Cultural Landscapes

Extremadura in Spain

Extremadura is located in the southwest of Spain and is one of the last remaining natural and cultural landscapes in Spain. The area used to be covered with cork oak forests, today only a few park-like natural forests called Dehesas are left providing pasture for the Black Iberian Pig and the White Caceres (cattle) in the Extremadura. The holm and cork oak trees are maintained for their heritage value and strictly looked after to preserve these traditional pastures.

In 2005, Fundación Global Nature carried on the conservation and species protection projects. The Nature Centre "La Dehesa" co-ordinates all activities for the protection of the Iberian Lynx, Otter as well as White and Black Stork. Additionally, conservation projects in the Monfragüe Nature Park are being supported. In the park breed e.g. Griffon Vulture, Eagle Owl, Black Stork, Spanish Imperial Eagle, Blue Rock Thrush, Rock Bunting, and Crag Martin. Planting of eucalyptus on huge subsidized areas was stopped through objections raised by conservationists as these trees with their deep roots extract large amounts of groundwater other plants would need, and they pollute the soil with their leaves. Instead of eucalyptus trees native holm oaks and stone pines were planted.

Another important project is the protection of the Iberian Lynx in the Extremadura as well as in the south of the province of Salamanca. By means of an action plan non-governmental organisations intend to jointly co-operate to improve the food sources for the Lynx. Since years, Fundación has

carried out a project to preserve the wild rabbit population and concentrates on the provision of rabbit burrows, habitat improvement and vaccination of wild rabbits. These measures are beneficial not only to the Iberian Lynx but also to the Spanish Imperial Eagle, Golden Eagle, Owl, Bonelli's Eagle and European Wild Cat. In 2005, the Global Nature Fund has supported the work of Fundación with € 4,000. The project will be continued in 2006.

Natural and Cultural Landscapes in Majorca

In Majorca you can still find paradisiacal coasts and natural landscapes. Now the Island is on the verge of losing its original character – through increasing number of tourists, new motorways, settlements as well as building of summer cottages and golf courses. Since 2004 Global Nature Fund is co-operating with the Spanish environmental organisation GOB (Grup Balear d'Ornitologia i Defensa de la Naturalesa) to preserve the pristine character of the island "in perpetuity".

In the GOB nature centre "La Trapa" old cultural plants are cultivated as well as environmental education projects and campaigns developed. Up to now, focal points were waste prevention, water saving and propagation of ecological behaviour patterns.

A big campaign "We save Majorca from destruction" was jointly launched by GOB and other citizen's groups in October 2005. The intention of the campaign is to stop numerous large projects in the Balearic Parliament by law initiative.

Another important field of work of GOB is the protection of endangered species. Among them a project to save the last Red Kite species which are on

Environmental education in the Nature Centre La Dehesas



In the Extremadura only a few natural forests are left



the verge of extinction through poisoned baits. Transmitters are attached on chicks to enable constant monitoring. Despite set backs the populations seems to stabilize. Also steps are undertaken to stop placing baits.

The protection of the Salobrar de Campos wetland is another important activity of GOB. In 2005, the whole ecosystem was declared a Nature Park. GOB is fighting for the 32 hectares large wetland Ses Fontanelles near the airport of Majorca where Black-winged Stilt breed and a rare plant is endemic.

The Global Nature Fund has supported GOB's most important projects with € 7,000. You can find more details on "Cultural Landscapes" in the annual report 2005/2006 which can be ordered at Global Nature Fund.

Example of an unspoilt stretch of coast at Majorca



The Wetland Salobrar de Campos



PR Work

GNF has intensified its PR work over the last years in order to provide prompt information of current developments at the Living Lakes. Press releases to the topics of nature and environment are regularly sent to over 1,000 interested people, and press documentations on the feedback drawn up. Every year four newsletters in English and German are published giving an account of current projects, events, interesting publications and many further absorbing topics. Interested people obtain the quarterly information, exempt from charges, per e-mail, in order to save the costs for paper, print and postage.

Up to five mailings per annum are sent out to generate donations for particular species protection projects in the partner regions. Furthermore, GNF releases different publications to current topics in the fields of nature and environmental protection. On demand of interested donors a guidebook called 'How to make a will?' was published. The printed version of the publication can be ordered at the GNF.

In order to inform a broad public, the results of the Living Lakes conferences are being published in comprehensive conference documentations. The Living Lakes exhibition was revised in the year 2005, and completed the public relations measures. The new exhibition was shown in the canteen of the Kärcher company, a good opportunity to inform the staff of environmental topics.



For the first time the work of GNF was mentioned in a DVD booklet. The documentary 'Darwins Alptraum' ('Darwin's Nightmare'), directed by the Austrian Hubert Sauper, was filmed at Lake Victoria and shows the consequences of globalisation. In the accompanying booklet are presented both background information on the movie and the projects of GNF at Lake Victoria.

Media Work

In the year 2005 GNF published over 20 press releases to current topics in order to attract attention and raise awareness for nature conservation and environmental protection. Following please find some selected examples of 2005:

Südkurier, 21 May 2005: [...] *The cultural centre called Gems is going to show the movie "Darwins Nightmare" produced by Hubert Sauper. [...] "This is a good chance to point out the dramatic situation at Lake Victoria.", so Udo Gattenlöhner, Executive Director of the international environment foundation GNF. The movie by Hubert Sauper delivers insight into that world at Lake Victoria, [...]. The lake is part of the Living Lakes network [...].*

Umweltjournal, December 2005: *On 20 November, 2005 GNF signed a Memorandum of Co-operation with CMS (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals) within the 8th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. [...] The Bonn Convention prohibits its presently 93 contracting states to kill, hunt, fish or catch deliberately strictly protected species [...]. Furthermore the countries are bound to conserve respectively restore habitats and to remove obstacles to their migration. [...]*

Donaukurier, April 2005: *Lake Victoria is the largest freshwater lake of Africa. With its announcement of „Threatened Lake 2005“ the Global Nature Fund intends to call attention to the ecological threat of Lake Victoria due to overfishing [...]. In the 1960's the Nile Perch was introduced into Lake Victoria [...] and extinguished almost the entire stock of the native fish species. Moreover, the lake is polluted through effluents of expanding settlements and industry. Wide parts of the shore are destroyed due to increasing demand of fuel wood and farmland. [...]*

8 Co-operations with Business Partners

Internet

The internet pages www.globalnature.org and www.livinglakes.org are visited by approximately 40,000 interested people per month. They find information about current projects of the foundation and background information on the partner lakes. This website is available in German, English, Spanish, and Russian. www.solarschiff-netzwerk.org offers interesting information about solar navigation in Germany.

Under www.livingwetlands.org you can find the results of the EU LIFE project "Sustainable Management of Wetlands and Shallow Lakes".

Co-operations with Business Partners

"All actions that are directed against nature, will not subsist." With that quotation by Charles Darwin started the last annual report of GNF. Unfortunately businesses did not act according to this maxim in the past. Over many decades the only motto was to maximize the profit. In the past years enterprises understood that the observation of environmental and conservation standards is not only a legal requirement but also an essential economic factor. Man cannot survive without an intact nature. Therefore it is important that short and medium term sustainability criteria provide companies competitive advantages.

Since its foundation in 1998, co-operation with enterprises committed to respecting environmental targets is a central field of the work of GNF. "Co-operation instead of confrontation" is the motto. A visible sign of this commitment is the long successful cooperation with different partners in the Living Lakes network. Next year Living Lakes celebrates its 10th anniversary and almost all economic partners will continue their support.

Drinking water is essential and cannot be replaced by anything else. But clean water is rare – in many countries less than 10 litres per day are available for the people against an average daily consumption of 127 litres in Germany. Compared to Italy with an average consumption of 213 litres and USA with 382 litres per capita and day, Germans are rather economical.

The graphic on page 29 shows that 80 % of this drinking water is used for hygienic and cleaning purposes – in the broadest sense. Against this background, the co-operation with **Unilever** originated. Unilever's activity fields encompass two central basic needs for life: Food and hygiene. Enterprises such as Unilever depend on customers perception of the company's environmental commitment and their appreciation to position environment-friendly products.

Therefore Unilever early has sought for co-operation with environmental organisations to jointly develop and implement strategies to reduce the water consumption and water pollution in the clean-

www.globalnature.org



ing sector. Since 1998 Unilever has been global partner and supporter of Living Lakes. Additionally to its financial support Unilever co-operates in concrete partner projects with Living Lakes organisations in several countries. Examples are the co-operation in South Africa and on the Philippines. In 2005, Unilever was awarded the Energy Globe Award in Indonesia in the category water – another step in realising Unilever’s concrete water targets. The special price “Water” in this competition was awarded to the Living Lakes partners EcoPeace/Friends of the Earth Middle East from Israel.

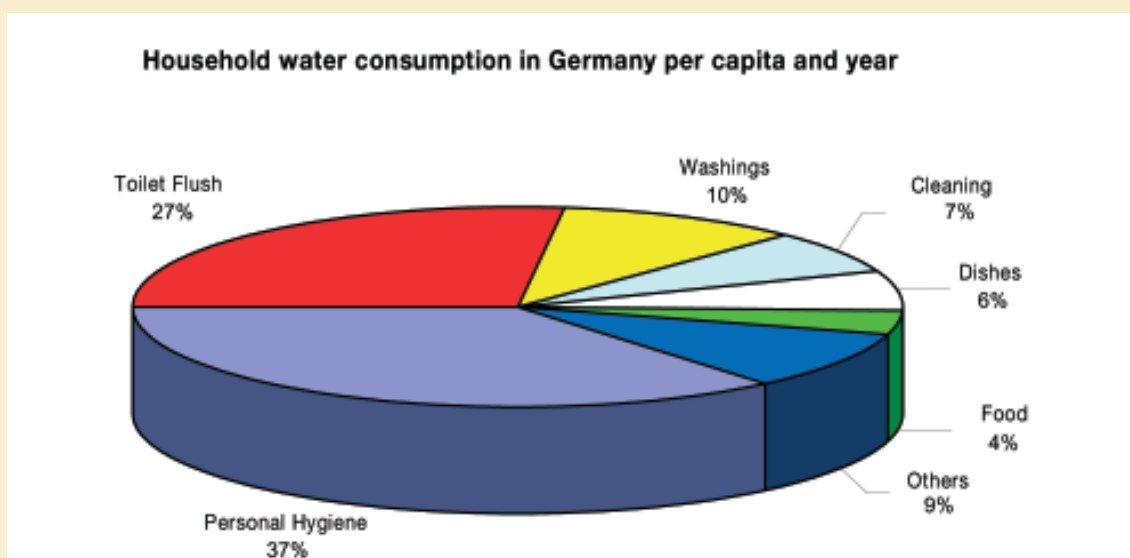
Since 1998 **DaimlerChrysler** has supported the Living Lakes project within its corporate sustainability strategy. This cooperation is part of DaimlerChrysler’s approach to protect the natural resources and preserve an intact environment as part of the corporate social responsibility. Co-operating with GNF approaches were sought to involve employees directly in DaimlerChrysler’s sustainability strategy. An excellent example are the Nature Summer Camps which were launched in 2003 and jointly realised in 2005 for the third time. DaimlerChrysler staff and their relatives spent two to three weeks in Living Lakes regions in Africa, Europe and Asia to carry out practical environmental work.

The German airline **Deutsche Lufthansa AG** is another partner of the innovative NSC summer camp project. Young Lufthansa employees work together with natives in environmental projects. Lufthansa, as GNF supporter, is committed to environment-

friendly sustainable development and to environment-friendly operation of aircrafts. Within the past 15 years, Lufthansa has succeeded in decreasing the fuel consumption thus reducing the emission of specific noxious matters. Since 1998 Lufthansa has been supporting the Living Lakes work.

The globally operating company **Sika**, based in Switzerland, is supporting Living Lakes since 2005. In 1997 already, Sika was certified according to ISO 14001. In the following years Sika was able to reduce the company’s water consumption considerably. Sika supported mainly projects in Sri Lanka, Kenya, and Poland. Additionally to its environmental co-operation with GNF, Sika is also socially active, so the company supports the foundation “Swiss Tables” (Schweizer Tafeln).

Since 2002 the **Alfred Kärcher GmbH & Co KG**, based in Winnigen, has been a sponsor of Living Lakes. In 2005 Kärcher’s versatile environmental commitment was rewarded with the “Environmental Prize for Enterprises” of the Land of Baden-Württemberg. Besides the co-operation with the Foundation Global Nature Fund, the jury honoured the company mobility concept of the producer of cleaning systems as well as their photovoltaic installations and heat recovery systems. Kärcher invested the prize money in another solar plant. In 2005 Kärcher presented an exhibition on Living Lakes in the company canteen. Additionally Kärcher is partner of the GNF solar initiative to promote the use of renewable energies in lake regions. In September 2006, in the scope of the INTER-



BOOT 2006 Fair, the first Solar Lakes Conference will take place. This event is being sponsored by the European Commission in the scope of the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme and the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Reactor Safety as well as the Federal Environmental Agency (Umweltbundesamt) and will be opened by the Minister for Environment of Baden-Württemberg, Tanja Gönner.

A. Ziemann GmbH, based in Ludwigsburg, is producer of manufacturing facilities for breweries. Without clean water no “pure” beer! Therefore Ziemann became engaged in the international protection of water. Since 2002 Ziemann has sponsored the Living Lakes network. In summer 2006 Ziemann was selected as one of top 100 innovative German companies. Since 2006 Ziemann also takes part in the GNF Nature Summer Camp project.

Ehtikbank, a branch office of Volksbank Eisenberg, has been partner of the Living Lakes network since 2003. It is a direct bank investing the customers money according to ecological criteria. EthikBank is involved in projects at Lake Baikal, Siberia, Russia, for example protecting the Baikal Seal.

GLS-Gemeinschaftsbank has set up an account in favour of GNF named “GLS project saving: Living Lakes”. Customers can open a short-run savings account or purchase long-run saving bonds. At the end of the calendar year, the interest is credited to concrete GNF projects. Thus the customer donates the interest to GNF for environmental and nature protection projects.

The Living Lakes exhibition was shown to the staff of the Kärcher company



9 Co-operations with National Institutions

Co-operations with National Institutions

Additionally to the support of business partners, Living Lakes is sponsored by other national and international institutions. Since 2005 **Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (German Environmental Foundation)**, Osnabrück, has been a sponsor of the new Lakes Network “Eastern Europe” involving the Living Lakes partner organisations in Estonia, Lithuania, Poland and Hungary.

Concrete GNF projects are also supported by the **Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Reactor Safety (BMU)**, by **Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)**, **Federal Environmental Agency (UBA)** and by **German Society for Technical Co-operation (GTZ)**. In Sri Lanka and Kenya GNF is co-operating with GTZ in the scope of a solar energy project. **Foundation of the Land Baden-Württemberg (LANDESSTIFTUNG Baden-Württemberg)** sponsors the implementation of the project „Renewable energies at Lake Victoria” aiming at improving the livelihood and income of the local fishermen at the same time reducing the environmental pollution at Africa’s largest lake.

Nature Conservation Fund (Stiftung Naturschutzfonds) and the initiative “**Aktion Mensch – 5000xZukunft**” are partners of the GNF project “Kids for Birds”, an environmental education project for the protection of birds in lake regions and alluvial areas in Baden-Württemberg. Additionally to the Solar Lakes Conference at Lake Constance, the **European Commission** supports comprehensive mangrove restoration projects in Sri Lanka. GNF is also engaged in regional partnerships e.g. with the **city of Friedrichshafen** at Lake Constance.

Day of Biodiversity in the Berlin Zoological Garden



Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V. (DUH) is a non-profit, independent nature conservation and consumer’s association with its headquarters in Radolfzell. Other branch offices are in Berlin and Hanover. Since its foundation in 1975, DUH has been committed to the protection of nature and environment, has carried out campaigns and network projects such as “Living Rivers” and “Energy saving community” as well as lobbying campaigns to promote recycling management, returnable bottle systems and clean air. GNF and DUH closely co-operate as regards issues and organisation.

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Living Rivers are life lines of our environment



10 Co-operations with International Institutions

Co-operations with International Institutions

In September 2004 a Memorandum of Cooperation between the **Ramsar Convention** on Wetlands in Gland (Switzerland) and GNF was signed. Common goal is the protection of lakes and wetlands. In November 2005 it was agreed upon a co-operation treaty with the **Bonn Convention** on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (UNEP/CMS).

The first common action will take place in the scope of the 11th Living Lakes Conference in November 2006 in China – a working group dealing with the topic “Avian influenza – Impacts on ecology, economy, environment and agriculture” will be organised.

On 13 October 2005 Living Lakes was designated as an official Decade Project of the UN Decade “Education for Sustainable Development”. **UNESCO** Decade Projects demonstrate good practice in sustainable development. On 14 November 2005, in Erfurt, GNF received the official designation for the years 2006 and 2007.



Project Financing

As there is no institutional funding for GNF available, the foundation has to seek financing possibilities each single project. For this purpose project applications at different funding institutions and funding programmes are made. Additionally, GNF follows approved fundraising strategies. Besides private donations and industrial sponsoring, GNF also raises money allocated by judges and public prosecutors. Regular information and contact to the donors and supporters are an important part of GNF's work.

Donations

Donations, patronages and membership in supporters circles help GNF realise its projects. Without the commitment of private donators it would not be possible to support current projects or launch new projects. The production and distribution of project information is also part of GNF's educational task as stipulated in the GNF Charter. In 2005 GNF sent out donation requests for following projects: "Irrawaddy-Dolphin" (Indonesia), "Preservation of Cultural Landscapes" (Majorca and Extremadura in Spain), "Long-toed Plover" (Nestos Lakes and Lagoons in Greece), Baikal Seal (Lake Baikal, Siberia), Lake Chapala (Mexico) and "Help for Tsunami victims in Sri Lanka". There is also the possibility to leave a legacy to GNF – for project work or as co-payment to the foundation's asset.

Allocations

Allocations are sums of money which are assigned by judges and public prosecutors to non-profit organisations. After the difficult year of 2004, we were able to raise more money in 2005. The basic problem, however, subsists. Due to general lack of money, law courts increasingly directly transfer fines to the court cashier or fines are not paid at all. Alternatively culprits can do social work or go to prison. Allocations from judges significantly contribute to finance the work of non-profit organisations. At economically difficult times GNF also depends on such allocations to finance its projects.

Grants

The EU LIFE project "Sustainable Management of Wetlands and Shallow Lakes" ended in October 2004 and was financially audited by the EU Commission in 2005. At the beginning of the year 2006 the re-maining money was paid and the first EU project successfully finished. The experiences made will help GNF and its partners successfully carry out further projects.

Beginning 2006, within the scope of the EU-Asia-ProEco II B Programme, the three-year post Tsunami project was started. It is being realised by GNF and its partners in Sri Lanka.

The annually held Living Lakes Conference was organised in 2005 with the co-operation of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) through funds from the Ministry for Environment (BMU). The conference took place on the Philippines and was organised by our partners CLEAR. 45.000 Euro were made available. From July 2004 to December 2005 the project "Solar Ship Network" was supported by BMU/UBA (Ministry for Environment/Federal Environment Agency) with € 37.616.

GNF Donation mailings in the year 2005



In 2004 the project "Renewable Energies for Fisher Folks of Lake Victoria" was launched and will be running until the end of 2006. Training in the fields of energy efficiency and renewable energies as well as an international expert seminary and dissemination of the results were sponsored by the Deutsche Post AG fund "Specially issued stamp: For the Environment", the German Ministry for Environment (BMU) and German Society for Technical Co-operation (GTZ). The Foundation of the Land Baden-Württemberg furthers the implementation of a "Solar and Efficiency Campaign" at Lake Victoria as well as informative meetings in Germany.

In-kind Donations

In-kind donations help reduce expenses for office equipment but also direct project costs. Computers, printers, mobile phones, binoculars or special equipment such as a drinking water treatment plants etc. destined for the use in project areas are made available gratis by our business partners. Lufthansa AG provides free tickets. Without this support the international Living Lakes conferences could neither be prepared nor carried out. Other partners help us save costs through financing printing and dissemination costs of information material, the provision of free advertisements and articles to inform the public about our activities.



Overview 2006

A wide range of actions is planned for 2006. One of the main projects will be the restoration of the destroyed mangrove forests and help for the Tsunami victims in Sri Lanka. The project "Kids for Birds" informs children and adolescents in different European lake regions about the native bird life. Additionally to the 11th Living Lakes Conference in China, GNF will organise a Solar Lakes Conference at Lake Constance under the motto "Use of renewable energies in lake regions". Together with its partner organisations around the world GNF will continue to campaign for the protection and conservation of lakes and wetlands. A short summary of the GNF activities in 2006:

11th Living Lakes Conference in China

The conference will take place from 29 October to 3 November 2006 in Nanchang at Lake Poyang in China. Besides Living Lakes partners, representatives of German authorities and officials from China's ministries are expected at the meeting. The main issue to be dealt at the 11th Living Lakes Conference is the balance between environmental protection, economic development and agricultural use of water resources in sensitive lake regions and wetlands – in China and worldwide.

Focus is on policy and legislation in connection with wetland management, influence of agriculture and other economic activities on the environment. Other issues are good practice examples and visions of sustainable agriculture and other economic methods in lake regions as well as the challenge to achieve the millennium development

Animal husbandry at Lake Poyang in China



targets. Prof. Dr. Harry Vogtmann, President of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, will be the keynote speaker addressing the topic of the conference "Balance between agriculture and sustainable development in lake regions and wetlands". Other high ranking experts such as Robert Hepworth, Executive Secretary, UNEP/CMS, Secretariat, Dr. Peter Bridgewater, Director of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Dr. Stephen Lintner from World Bank, and Dr. Wolfgang Fiedler from the Max-Planck Institute, will speak on the issues avian influenza, wild animals and environment.

Post Tsunami Project

In January 2006 GNF has launched the EU supported project "Post Tsunami mangrove restoration, education and restoration of livelihoods". In the centre of this three-year project is the preservation of the mangrove forests in the lake regions Madampe and Maduganga as well as around Lake Bolgoda in Sri Lanka. One of the most important measures is the establishment of mangrove nurseries, reforestation of damaged mangrove forests and building and running of environmental education facilities. In these education centres the local population can get information on the negative impacts of clearing wooded areas and coral harvest in order to reduce or prevent these deleterious activities. The project results will be given to the Tsunami affected region at Lake Pulicat in India.

To exchange experiences and competences at global level, two international conferences will be organised in order to spread the experiences and project results in other Asian countries which were affected by the Tsunami e.g. Indonesia, Thailand and India and include countries that are potentially threatened by a Tsunami.

The project is financed in the scope of the Asia Pro-Eco II Post Tsunami programme by EU Commission. Additional funding comes from the Serendib Foundation (Hamburg, Germany) and from the Sika company (Switzerland).

Solar Lakes Conference

Under the motto "Solar Lakes Conference – Use of Renewable Energies in European Lakes Regions in Harmony with Nature" GNF organises a four day expert meeting from 24 to 27 September 2006 at the INTERBOOT Fair in Friedrichshafen. The participants will be informed through lectures, discussions and excursions about successful examples of the use of renewable energies in European lake regions taking into account nature protection aspects. Our European Living Lakes partners and other experts will report on their experiences and potentials of the transferability of these models and projects to other lake regions. Issues such as energy efficiency as a contribution to climate protection, use of renewable energies in companies, intelligent energy use in the tourism sector and financing instruments for sustainable energies are other focal points.

Co-organiser of the conference are German Environmental Aid (Deutsche Umwelthilfe), Lake Constance Foundation (Bodensee-Stiftung), the city of Friedrichshafen and the Kärcher company. The conference is co-financed by the European Commission in the scope of the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme as well as by the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Reactor Safety as well as the Federal Environmental Agency (Umweltbundesamt) through funding from the sales of the 8th specially issued stamp "Nature protection is a matter of all of us".

Nature Summer Camps 2006

Together with its economic partners Lufthansa, Ziemann and Sika, GNF offers Nature Summer Camps at Lake St. Lucia in South Africa and at the Lakes Peipsi and Võrtsjärv in Estonia. Employees and children of staff members of the companies, during their holiday, assist our Living Lakes partner organisations also this year in their maintenance work and environmental activities as well as counting of endangered animal species.

Kids for Birds

In April 2006, in the scope of the environmental education project Kids for Birds, a model excursion for teachers and youth group leaders took place at the Peninsula of Mainau, Lake Constance. In 2006 further excursions at different seasons will be carried out for children and juveniles in the project regions.

The Fairground Friedrichshafen at Lake Constance is the venue of the Solar Lakes Conference



Schoolgirls and boys participating in the environmental education project „Kids for Birds“ in Estonia



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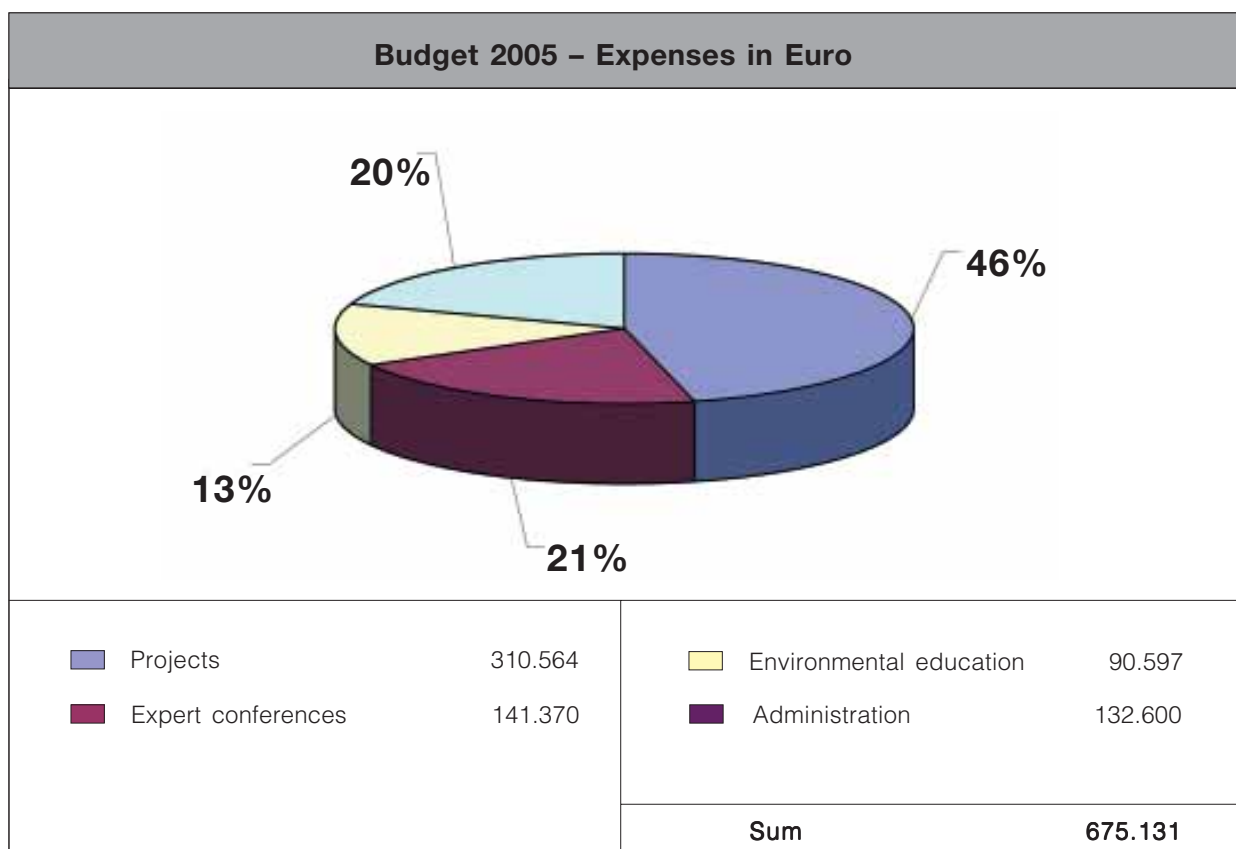
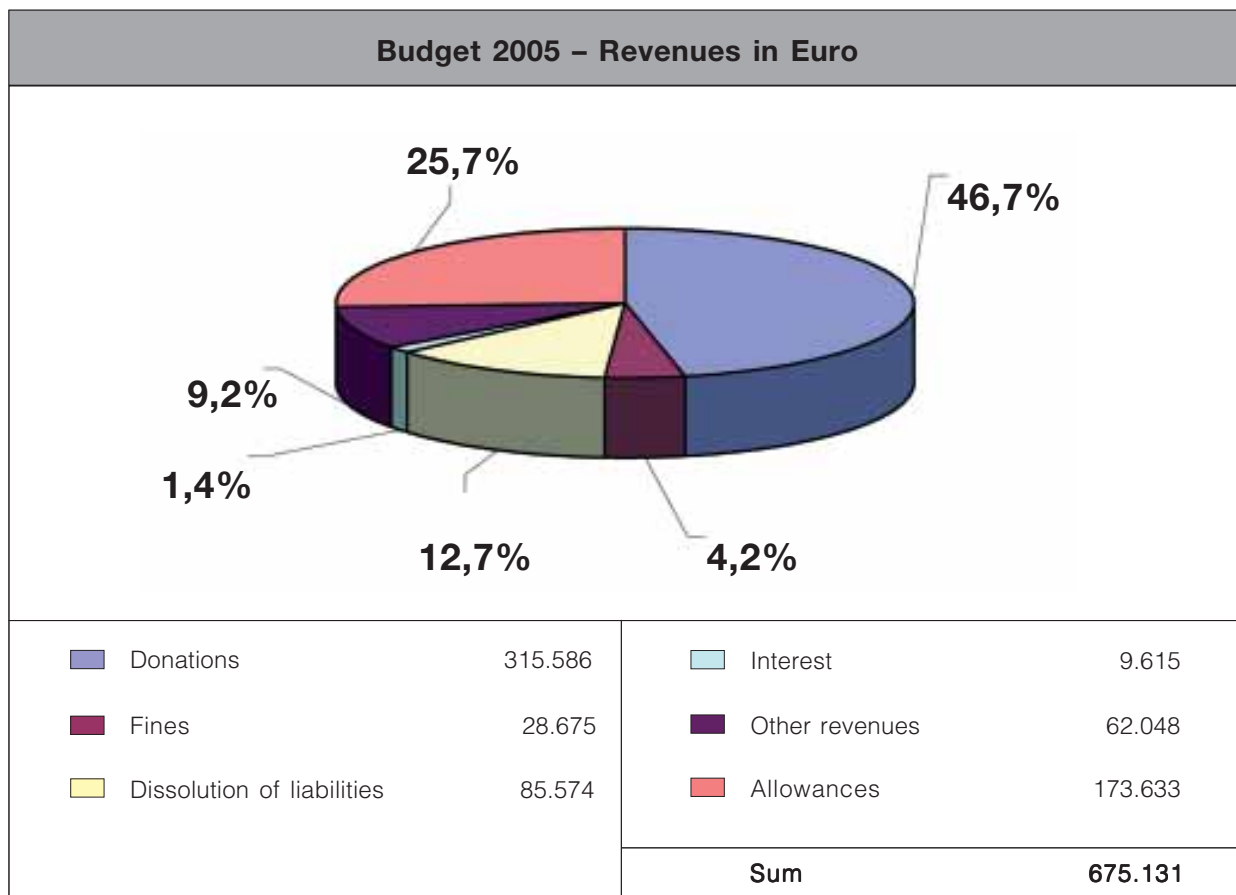
The Global Nature Fund team



Expenses		Personnel	Sum
Living Lakes	102.264,53	89.810,52	
Solar Lakes	45.355,49	37.017,35	
Nestos	9.043,46		
Lake Constance	18.750,00	3.750,00	
Lake Baikal	14.431,30		
Milicz Ponds	8.285,95		
Norfolk Broads	2.057,50		
Dead Sea	59,00		
Mahakam Wetlands	7.105,00		
Laguna Fuquene	6.000,00		
Sri Lanka	6.539,06		
Chapala	1.600,00		
Lake Victoria	33.401,80	5.914,53	
Peipsi/Vörtsjärv	2.054,40		
EU-Intelligent Energy	128,36		
EU-LIFE-Project (2001)	577,85		
EU-Phare (Estonia)	544,54		
EU-Eco-Asia-Project (starting from 2006)	171,34		
EU-LIFE-Project (2005)	58,05		
Stiftung NRW, Action Middle East (Foeme)	12.790,01	5.295,59	
Stiftung Umwelt+Entwicklung (Baikal+St.Lucia+BUND)	1.762,38		
Stiftung Naturschutzfonds (kids for birds)	6.959,92	1.590,43	
Cultural Landscapes	5,50		
Extremadura	4.001,00		
Majorca	7.394,26		
Murcia (Mar Menor)	19.223,02	18.808,83	
			310.563,72
Expert Conferences	<u>141.369,92</u>	73.281,59	141.369,92
Environmental Education Living Lakes	<u>67.040,26</u>	36.260,00	67.040,26
General Environmental Education	<u>23.556,60</u>	10.154,67	23.556,60
Administration	<u>132.600,11</u>	41.222,98	132.600,11
Appropriation to reserves			0,00
		<u>323.106,49</u>	<u>675.130,61</u>
 Income			
Interest and investment proceeds			9.614,58
Dissolution liabilities			0,00
Dissolution liabilities from aus EU LIFE Project			0,00
Reimbursement tangible costs			14.976,83
Reimbursement personnel costs			35.596,76
Fines			28.675,00
Donations			
General	11.662,11		
Earmarked for special purposes	9.854,36		
Resulting from actions	59.502,49		
Supporters	996,00		
Patronages	24.570,20		
Free advertising	3.320,85		
Big donations	205.000,00		
In-kind donations	680,20		
			315.586,21
Allowances/grants			
for actions and campaigns	139.556,50		
BFN (for conference)	42.174,00		
EU LIFE Project (2001), last instalment	<u>-8.097,11</u>		
			173.633,39
Others			
Other revenues (honoraria)	0,00		11.474,04
Withdrawal from reserves	<u>0,00</u>		85.573,80
			<u>675.130,61</u>

Radolfzell, 26 June 2006, audited by Herberger GmbH

ACTIVA /Assets	EUR	EUR	2004 in TEUR	
I. Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets				
Office equipment	4.549,79		6,03	
Financial Assets				
1. Investments (Oeko Geno)	306,78		0,31	
2. Reinsurance pension fund	38.921,04		37,24	
3. Loans	<u>0,00</u>	43.777,61	<u>5,00</u>	48,58
II. Current Assets				
1. Cash in hand and cash at bank				
Cash	120,15		0,35	
Bank accounts	37.056,86		29,85	
Fixed term, deposit, GLS-Bank	248.874,16		230,83	
Fixed term, deposit, Ethikbank	103.805,54		96,00	
Transit money	0,00		0,00	
2. Receivables				
Receivables from suppliers and services	48.360,95			
Receivables from EU	71.902,89			
Other receivables	10.604,43		134,18	
Rent deposit	2.770,79		2,76	
3. Other assets				
Security paper (investments)	<u>209.484,11</u>	732.979,88	<u>209,50</u>	703,47
III. Active adjustment		714,40		1,91
		<u>777.471,89</u>		<u>753,96</u>
PASSIVA/Liabilities				
I. Foundation Capital	285.000,00			
Payments to foundation capital	<u>72.638,04</u>	357.638,04		285,00
II. Balance carried forward per 01.01.2005	322.508,22		296,21	
Withdrawal from reserves	<u>-85.573,80</u>	236.934,42	26,30	322,51
III. Liabilities				
Trade liabilities	26.210,62		62,24	
Liabilities project grants	32.642,12		41,19	
Liabilities EU project	0,00		0,00	
Liabilities salaries and wages	11.990,95		10,22	
Other liabilities	11.015,45		0,87	
Liabilities VAT (7%)	<u>0,00</u>	81.859,14	3,50	118,02
IV. Provisions				
Retirement provisions	38.921,04		7,30	
Other provisions	<u>32.062,44</u>	70.983,48	21,13	28,43
V. Passive Adjustment		30.056,81		0,00
		<u>777.471,89</u>		<u>753,96</u>



Addresses of Living Lakes Partners

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

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Lake Victoria; Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda



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ASIA

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FoEME - Friends of the Earth Middle East
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Laguna de Bay; Philippines



CLEAR - Conservation of Laguna de Bay's
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Nestos Lakes and Lagoones; Greece



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Norfolk & Suffolk Broads; Great Britain



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Lake Võrtsjärv and Lake Peipsi; Estonia and Russia



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Pantanal Wetlands; Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay



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Lake Titicaca; Peru and Bolivia



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Fundación Global Nature: 25

Fundación Humedales: 22l

German Environmental Aid (Deutsche Umwelthilfe): 31

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GOB: 26r

GRAN: 18r

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