



Annual Report **2006**/2007

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**A fundamental Condition for
Happiness is the Affinity of
Human Beings and Nature.**

Leo Tolstoi

Preface

Dear Reader,

The number of members in the Living Lakes Network increases year by year. At the same time the worldwide partnerships are also becoming more active and versatile. It is especially the concrete projects that make the Living Lakes Network so dynamic. The spectrum of activities reaches from the renaturation of mangrove forests in Sri Lanka, over solar lamps at Lake Victoria to environmental education projects in Estonia. To this the numerous smaller and larger events must be added, which are also so important for the cultivating of personal contacts and the exchanging of experiences between partners. A particular highlight in this respect was surely the 11th Living Lakes Conference, which took place in China November 2006. The conference was attended by over 200 participants from 30 countries. A list of such successful events could be continued for a long time.

Global Nature Fund's other goals in the next few years include the formation of national and regional Living Lakes Networks. The Living Lakes Network Italy was launched in June 2007 and its Chinese counterpart is to be officially started in the near future. Trans-national networks, such as the Latin American Living Lakes Network and a Living Lakes Network Africa are also being developed. These new strategies offer a great deal of dynamics and contribute towards the conservation of unique lakes and wetlands the world over.

But a glance at the future is also very interesting! Biodiversity will be an important issue in 2008. Germany will host the COP 9 as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity, which will take place in May 2008 in Bonn. The public sees the loss of biodiversity as a problem primarily of tropical regions, manifest in the dramatic destruction of the tropical rainforests. The conference in Germany is to show that species conservation is an important issue in industrialised nations as well, and that it can prevent long term market disadvantages. In light of this background, Global Nature Fund will, in collaboration with the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, implement measures to improve the cooperation between conservation organisations and businesses.

Many successful projects and activities could not have been implemented without the help and support from institutions and partners alike. Global Nature Fund must hereby thank numerous parties: businesses such as Unilever, Lufthansa, DaimlerChrysler, Ziemann and Sika, the Federal Environment Ministry, the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt, as well as all contributors, partner organisations, founders and steering committee members. In the name of the GNF team, we ask you to keep supporting our work, so that an important contribution towards the protection of our water, lakes and wetlands is still made in future.

In 2008 Living Lakes will celebrate its ten year anniversary. We would like to hereby invite you to our 12th Living Lakes Conference from 13th to 17th September 2008 at Lake Trasimeno, Italy, to celebrate this special birthday together.

Kind regards,



Marion Hammerl
President



Udo Gattenlöhner
Executive Director



1 Introduction of the Global Nature Fund

Introduction of the Global Nature Fund (GNF)

Goals

The Global Nature Fund (GNF) is an international Foundation for nature and the environment, founded in 1998. The foundation is governmentally independent and pursues exclusively charitable goals for the promotion of conservation, landscape conservation, animal protection, education and national education, as well as the youth welfare. The main office is in Radolfzell at Lake Constance.

The foundation's aims are realised by:

- Implementation and execution of nature conservation projects for the conservation of the fauna and the protection of migrating animal species, as well as their habitats and migratory routes,
- Development of model projects for the promotion of sustainable management,
- Environmental education, publications and events regarding natural environment conservation,
- Promotion of international protection of animals and species,
- Fostering of an international dialogue between environmental organisations, industries, administrations, politicians and scientists,
- Supporting sustainable and fair global development, as long as this relates to nature and environmental protection issues.

Structure

The Global Nature Fund is a foundation based on private law, and was founded by six private individuals in 1998. The Senate Office for Justice in Berlin approved the foundation on April 29th 1998.

On 31st December 2006, the foundation funds add up to € 387,638.04. The foundation's institutions are, according to §4 of the charter, the Steering Committee and the Founding Council. The Steering Committee of the Global Nature Fund is elected for four years, which leads and administrates the foundation as required by the charter. The experience of the Steering Committee members in the areas of conservation is of high importance and very helpful for the work of the Global Nature Fund.

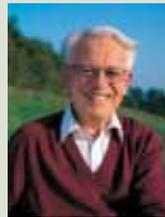
The Steering Committee is comprised of the following members:



Marion Hammerl
President,
Orsingen-Nenzingen, Germany



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



Prof. Dr. Gerhard Thielcke
Honorary President,
Radolfzell, Germany
(† passed away 22nd July 2007)



Jörg Dürr-Pucher
Radolfzell, Germany



Dr. Hendrik Hoeck
Kreuzlingen, Switzerland



Ranveig Eckhoff
Oslo, Norway

The Founding Council monitors the foundation and with it the Steering Committee. The Founding Council consists of the founding members and donors. For the duration of a position on the Steering Committee, the founder loses his seat on the Founding Council. The founders advise the Steering Committee and the Executive Board in matters of fundraising in particular.

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

- Karla Bauer, Murnau
(passive member since 31st December 2006)
- Michael Bauer, Moos
- Prof. Dr. Thomas Feske, Valencia, Spain
- Jürgen Resch, Überlingen-Bonndorf

Further donors are Dr. Renate Gehring and the A. Ziemann GmbH. These donors have abstained from their right to vote in the founding council. Renate Keith made a donation to the Global Nature Fund by means of a legacy. The Province of Perugia in Italy, a member of the Living Lakes network, has recently agreed to afford a donation as well.

Scientific Advisory Board

A Scientific Advisory Board to advise the Steering Committee can be formed according to § 9. The members of the Scientific Advisory Board support the work of Global Nature Fund (GNF) and of the international project „Living Lakes“ with their know-how and contacts in an honorary way. Scientific Advisory Board is currently comprised of the following members:

- Prof. Dr. Michael Succow
Director of the Botanic Institute,
University of Greifswald
Winner of the Alternative Nobel Prize
Greifswald, Germany
- Prof. Dr. Manfred Niekisch
Full professor of the Chair for International
Nature Protection,
Ernst-Moritz Arndt University Greifswald,
Germany
- James Strock
Scottsdale, Arizona, USA
James Strock, former Minister for the
Environment California

- Dr. Antonio Gómez Reyna
Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico
- Michael Ounsted
Chair for Wetlands, Wetlands International
AL Wageningen, The Netherlands
Chair of the Wetlands and Livelihoods Working
Group
- Roger de Freitas
Chair of the BTCV Board of Trustees
London, UK

Memberships

Global Nature Fund is a member of the following organisations:

- Deutscher Naturschutz Ring (DNR)
- Bundesverband Deutscher Stiftungen
- Future e.V.
- ECOCAMPING
- Ecotrans e.V.
- FAN (Freshwater Action Network)
- Bundesverband deutscher Pressesprecher
- Deutscher Fundraising Verband
- Klima-Allianz Deutschland (since April 2007)

2 Project Living Lakes



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. Lake Trasimeno; Italy
12. Lake Balaton; Hungary
13. Milicz Ponds; Poland
14. Lake Võrtsjärv and Peipsi; Estonia and Russia
15. Nestos Lakes and Lagoons; Greece
16. Lake Paliastomi; Georgia
17. Lake Uluabat; Turkey
18. Dead Sea; Israel, Jordan and Palestine
19. Lake Viktoria; Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda
20. Lake St. Lucia; South Africa
21. Tengiz Lake; Kazakhstan
22. Lakes Maduganga and Madampe; Sri Lanka
23. Lake Bolgoda; Sri Lanka
24. Lake Baikal; Russia
25. Lake Poyang; China
26. Lake Biwa; Japan
27. Laguna de Bay; Philippines
28. Mahakam Lakes; Indonesia
1. Honorary Lake: Wostok; Antarktica

Associated Partners

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

Project Living Lakes



Partner Lakes

The globally operating lake partnership Living Lakes campaigns for the protection and renaturation of lakes, wetlands and other waters, as well as their catchment areas. In order to conserve intact ecosystems in collaboration with local residents and in keeping with their needs, the Living Lakes Network supports integrated approaches for a sustainable development in lake regions and also aims to intensify self-help measures for the local population. The utilisation of such regions is therefore to be without negative effects for the sensitive eco system. The issue of protecting global waters becomes ever more important, especially because of the intensified discussions regarding CO₂ reduction and climate change.

The Living Lakes Network offers partner organisations a platform for international dialogue, exchange of experiences and technology, and therefore furthers the practical implementation of Agenda 21 targets. Forums for such purposes are given with the regularly occurring international conferences (every one to two years). International workshops offer a productive exchange of information and experiences. They also offer the possibility of implementing model projects. The Living Lakes Network has grown continually since its foundation in 1998, with numerous additional lakes applying every year. Currently the network consists of 45 partner lakes.

Three associated partners received full membership in 2006. The Italian Lake Trasimeno and Sri Lanka's lake Bolgoda and the twin lakes Maduganga and Madampe as joint partners.

The three islands are characteristic for Lake Trasimeno. The largest one is a nature reserve.



Lake Trasimeno, Italy

Covering an area of 126 sq. km, Lake Trasimeno is Italy's fourth largest lake. It is located in Umbria, northwest of the city of Perugia. The lake is very shallow, having a maximum depth of only six metres. The lake also contains three islands: Isola Polvese, Isola Maggiore and Isola Minore. Isola Polvese, with 64 ha the largest island, is a nature reserve. The lake's peculiar feature is the fact that it has no natural feeder rivers and is therefore supplied purely by rain water. Therefore the lake is subject to large changes in water levels during the summer months, which can lead to low water tables and favour increased algae growth. Nevertheless, the lake is rich in fish, which are an important income source for the local fishermen. Fish such as tench, eel, carp, pike and roach can be found in the lake. But not only fish can be found in the lake's waters. Rare amphibians and reptiles, such as the Italian crested newt and the dice snake live in and around the lake. The lake is also a protective resting place for many migratory birds. In the region around the lake, birds such as squacco heron, purple heron, little bittern, kingfisher, bittern, Eurasian widgeon, mallard, tufted duck, common white-eye and great crested grebe can be found. Short-toed eagle, osprey and eagle owl are the region's typical birds of prey.

Living Lakes partners at Lake Trasimeno are the Provincial Government of Perugia, the conservation organisation Legambiente and the mountain township of Comunità Montana. The Provincial Government of Perugia campaigns, in collaboration with local communities, for a sustainable development of the region. Tourist activities around the lake have overall increased, but mass tourism could be avoided so far.

In Italy, in the heart of Umbria, lies Lake Trasimeno.



Lakes Maduganga and Madampe, Sri Lanka

The twin lakes Maduganga and Madampe, connected by a narrow channel of water, lie on Sri Lanka's south western coast. According to an IUCN study (International Union for the Conservation of Nature, 2000), Madampe Lake possesses a unique biodiversity. Various forms of vegetation, such as the dominating mangrove forests and swamp lands can be found in the region. Due to this diverse flora, many animals call this landscape their home. Some species count as endangered, some are even found on the Red List. Almost half of all of Sri Lanka's native bird species can be found at both lakes, since the many islands existing in both lakes create excellent bird habitats.

Both lakes, Maduganga and Madampe alike, are very populous. Many of the residents are dependent on the natural resources of the surrounding wetlands to survive. By now, damages to the region through overfishing, pollutants and chemical fertilisers can be seen. The goal is to increase the awareness for such problems with the local population, as well as the tourist sector.

The Living Lakes partner organisation Nagenahiru has been constructing an environmental education centre, in order to develop environmental awareness and to inform decision makers about the sustainable utilisation, protection and renaturation of the wetlands and their resources.

Bolgoda Lake, Sri Lanka

Bolgoda Lake is located 19 km south of Colombo, in the southwest of Sri Lanka. The lake consists of fresh and brackish water alike. Because of its great natural beauty, the lake has much potential for the tourist sector and the fishing industry. However, the lake is severely threatened. Chemicals, sewage, lumber mills, the draining of wetlands and the deforestation of mangrove forests present only a selection of the biggest problems the region faces.

The lake's pollution has a direct effect on the drinking water quality in the region and also potentiates the growth of „Diva Habala“, a weed impairing other plants in the lake to a large extent. In response, the local partner organisation EMACE is tackling the problem from two sides. The first approach involves a protection project in order to clean the lake and to arouse the interest of the local population in the protection of the lake from pollution by means of economic incentive. The second measure involves the thermal utilisation of the produced sawdust, that is otherwise used for illegal land reclamation in the mangrove forests. Further measures to create alternative sources of income for the local population and the supporting of women's rights round off EMACE's work.

The shallow lakes are a source for construction material.



The water hyacinth causes various problems at Lake Bolgoda.



Associated Partners

The GNF introduced the associated partnership in 2003. This was to allow organisations and lakes which did not fulfil the requirements for a full partnership to still be able to work as part of the Living Lakes Network. Past years have proven that the associated partners are incredibly active within the Living Lakes Network and that they have made important contributions towards model projects. Three important associated partners could thus be incorporated into the network:

Lake Atitlán - Guatemala

Lake Atitlán lies 1,560 m above sea level in Guatemala's west highlands. It is Guatemala's third largest freshwater lake with a total area of 130 sq. km. The lake's maximum depth amounts to 325 m. The lake itself was born about 85,000 years ago, following a volcanic eruption, and today lies in the crater of a dead volcano. Three volcanoes frame the lake, giving an impressive panorama view: Atitlán (3,537 m), Tolimán (3,158 m) and San Pedro (2,995 m).

The natural vegetation is characterised by mixed forests of oak and pine trees and wet and dry deciduous and coniferous forests, in which 798 different species of plant were recorded. However, this unique diversity is not only limited to plants: 116 species of amphibians and reptiles, 236 species of birds and 141 different species of mammals can be found in and around the lake. Many of the species living in the region can be found on the Red List.

Even today, Mayan ethnic groups live at Lake Atitlán. They were able to keep their traditions in the form of a sort of mixture of indigenous rituals and Christian rites from the time of Spanish colonisation, forming a religious syncretism. Despite the region's species-richness, landscape and culture, and the resulting income from the tourism sector - Lake Atitlán is the second most visited desti-

Lake Atitlán is 85 000 years old and surrounded by three volcanoes.



nation in Guatemala - Lake Atitlán remains one of the poorest regions in the country. Our partner organisation Asociación Vivamos Mejor Guatemala campaigns for an improvement of local living conditions, for the conservation of the region's nature and for sustainable development in the region.

Lake Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan

Lake Issyk-Kul is located in the middle of Heaven's Mountains in the north of Kyrgyzstan, 1,600 m above sea level. With an area of 6,236 sq. km, it is the second largest high mountain lake in the world, second only to Lake Titicaca. Lake Issyk-Kul is also Kyrgyzstan's largest lake. With a maximum depth of 668 m, the lake is extremely deep. Because of elevated salt levels and numerous warm springs, the lake does not freeze up in winter. This results in an extraordinary richness of fish. Lake Issyk-Kul is one of the most important food sources in the region and a very attractive resting place for migratory birds. But species-richness can also be found outside the lake's waters. Characteristic are the high mountain valleys, the so called syrts, high mountain mats with rich flower-bloom and the vast high plateaus with traditional pastures. The landscape around the lake is characterised by deserts, half deserts and 7,000m high mountain ranges, covering the longest glaciers outside polar regions. Many plants and animals find ideal habitats in the region. Approx. 4,000 different species of plants grow in the region, of which about 1,400 are endemic. Of special significance are hereby the archetypes of numerous fruit trees, or the fir woods growing on the permafrost. The woods are populated by brown bears, Siberian deer and lynxes. Steppe sheep, the rare Marco-Polo sheep, Tien-Shan squirrels and pikas can be found on the high mountain steppes. Snow leopard and ibex prefer the even higher, icier regions. Species-richness can also

Lake Issyk-Kul is located at 1600 m above sea level. One third of the occurring plant species are endemic there.



3 Events and Activities

be observed with birds: Bearded Vulture, Steppe Eagle, Mountain Goose, Himalayan Snowcock and Black Ferruginous Duck can all be found in the region. Living Lakes-Partner at Lake Issyk-Kul is NABU Kyrgyzstan.

Wular Lake, India (Kashmir)

Wular Lake is located in the Kashmir Valley in the northwest of India, 1,580 m above sea level. With a total area of 189 sq. km, the lake is not only India's largest freshwater lake, but is also one of the largest freshwater lakes in the whole of Asia. Despite its size, the lake is not very deep, since its maximum depth amounts to only 14 m.

Wular lake is vital for the entire hydrological system of the Kashmir Valley, since it is a large retention basin for the annual melt water. The feeder rivers transport hundreds of tons of silt to the lake every year. This marked siltation and additional human encroachments have devastating effects on the lake and its surrounding environment.

Many animals call the lake and its surrounding swamplands home. In addition, the lake is an important fishing region, since 60% of Kashmir's entire catch is fished in Wular Lake. The lake secures the income of over 8,000 fishermen every day. Furthermore, numerous migratory birds, many of which can be found on IUCN's Red List, use the lake as a wintering ground. The pollution through fertilisers and human and animal waste, the transformation of large areas to farmland and the increasing pressure on the populations of water fowl and migratory birds through hunting are the main problems of the region. In recognition of its biological, hydrological and socio-economic worth, the lake was integrated into the wetland programme of India's Ministry for Environment and Woodland in 1986. The intention was to increase conservation and agricultural management efforts in the area. Additionally, the Region was awarded the title of wetland of international importance within the Ramsar-convention in 1990.

The local partner organisation South Asian Voluntary Association of Environmentalists (SAVE) is a consortium of private persons with the aim of protecting the environment and ecology around Lake Wular.

Events and Activities

11th International Living Lakes Conference in China

The 11th annual Living Lakes Conference took place in Nanchang, near China's largest lake, Poyang Lake, from 29th October till 3rd November 2006. It was the first international event ever to combine the issues of lake protection, water quality, bird influenza and agriculture in this part of China. A total of six Chinese vice-ministers, including the departments of water and environment, the governor and vice-governor of the province Jianxia and 200 participants - including 100 international top-ranking experts from over 30 countries - discussed at the conference organised by the GNF and its Chinese Living Lakes partner MRLSD, how China's lakes can be protected. Both Chinese and foreign newspapers, TV and radio stations as well as international magazines covered the conference.

It is common knowledge that China faces enormous environmental problems. The Chinese vice minister for water, Siyi Hu, informed the conference in his speech that 75% of all Chinese lakes suffer from eutrophication. In some cases lakes have already died or are close to dying. It is an important insight, that despite of China's gigantic environmental problems, serious approaches to combine environmental and nature protection with sustainable development do exist. The Chinese authorities have slowly recognised that a cooperation with private environmental protection organisations and other stakeholders is needed, in order to cope with the enormous problems caused by extremely polluted lakes and rivers and a lack of an area-wide

On the 11th Living Lakes conference in China over 200 participants discussed the possibilities of balancing agriculture and lakes protection.



supply of drinking water for the population. Foreign expertise and experiences are also to contribute towards finding solutions.

Therefore GNF will give specialist support to its Chinese partner in building and coordinating a Living Lakes Network China. With this measure, the efforts to improve the protection of the country's lakes is to be extended to other regions of China beyond Poyang Lake. Founding members of the new national lake network are: Promoting Association for Mountain-River-Lake Regional Sustainable Development (MRLSD), Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) China Office, Chinese Association for Non-Governmental Organisations (CANGO), Institute of Geography and Limnology (CAS) and Yunnan Environmental Development Institute (YEDI). The partners of the new network are now waiting for the official authorisation from the Chinese Government to found Living Lakes China.

The Living Lakes partner lake, Lake Poyang, is still in quite a good condition. The conference participants emphasised that the lake must become a positive example for China and demanded the extension of the Poyang-Hu Wetland Park from 200 sq. km to over 2,000 sq. km, an official limitation of the use of fertilisers and pesticides in farming and the creation of a buffer-zone belt around the lake.

Dr. Peter Bridgewater, director of the Ramsar Convention, Marco Barbieri of the United Nations Environmental Protection Programme (UNEP)/Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Prof. Manfred Niekisch from IUCN, Dr. Wolfgang Fiedler from the Max Planck Institute and Mr Cheng Siwei, the second chairman of the „Standing Committees of the National People's Congress“ were all present as speakers.

In his opening speech, Prof. Hartmut Vogtmann, president of the Federal Nature Conservation Agency, emphasised that in light of growing resource scarcity and the destruction of natural ecosystems, a global transfer to ecological cultivation methods was urgently needed. Additionally it was essential that less water is wasted and that the increasing sealing off of land must be stopped.

These facts were also confirmed by a survey among 21 lake regions that was presented at the conference by GNF. The negative effects of farming on the lakes investigated - including Lake Constance, the Siberian Lake Baikal and the Dead Sea in the Middle East - are numerous:

1. Erosion and sedimentation from deforestations and overexploitation of the soil at the lake's shore and in their catchment areas
2. Dried up lakes due to overexploitation of the water reserves for irrigation
3. Eutrophication and impairment of the water quality through usage of fertilisers and pesticides.

Farming can be environmentally friendly. The conference attendees could experience this fact first hand during a visit at an ecological tea plantation in the Lushan Mountains, located within the catchment area of the Poyang. Another possibility to reduce the agricultural impact is presented by bio-gas plants. Apart from reducing waste water inflow to the lake, they also contribute towards protecting the climate. According to regional authorities, 1.2 million small plants provide cooking gas for the impoverished rural population of the entire Poyang Lake area.

Within the framework of the conference, a seminar supported by FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) and UNEP/CMS titled "Bird Influenza, Wild Animals and the Environment" took place. The speakers all agreed that it was not wild birds that are the cause for the spreading of the aggressive H5N1 virus, but rather the intensive poultry keeping practices. The worry now is that the virus could spread to the Siberian crane. About 95% of all Siberian cranes spend the winters at Poyang Lake.

During the conference the GNF also awarded five individuals the "Living Lakes Award 2006 for extraordinary conservation efforts", for their exemplary contributions towards conservation efforts.

During the conference in China the Living Lakes Prize for outstanding nature protection work was awarded to five persons for their special contributions to the protection of environment and nature.



International Fair for Alternative Travel 2006

At the "Reisepavillon 2006", 300 exhibitors from 30 countries came together on the former EXPO grounds in Hanover, in order to present a diverse offering of holiday destinations and ideas. In 2006, the focal point was sustainable tourism, with relation to natural landscapes and historical gardens. Taking South Africa as an example, it was shown that tourism can also contribute towards development aid. Apart from South Africa, national parks from all over the world presented themselves on the exhibition grounds in the form of stalls, picture presentations or films. The reason for this year's theme was the "year of nature parks", patronised by Federal President Horst Köhler. Historical garden often sensitise people for nature to a great extent, especially since they are often closer to home than national parks.

Living Lakes and GNF were present at the Reisepavillon together with the Italian Province of Perugia and the environmental protection organisation Legambiente, who both presented Lake Trasimeno. The lake, its natural and cultural works and its environmentally friendly tourist offers were all promoted in form of an impressive photography exhibition.

Among the 300 exhibitors were GNF presenting Living Lakes, the provincial government of Perugia and the environmental organisation Legambiente.



Solar Lakes Conference at Lake Constance

The utilisation of renewable energies in European lake regions was the topic of GNF's Solar Lakes Conference, which took place in Friedrichshafen at Lake Constance from 24th to 27th of September 2006. The Deutsche Umwelthilfe, the Bodensee-Stiftung, the City of Friedrichshafen and the Kärcher company were all partners of the conference.

The event's focal point was the expansion of alternative energies, while allowing for nature protection aspects. Speakers from all over Europe informed their audience on issues such as contributions to climate protection measures, the utilisation of renewable energies in businesses, intelligent energy use in the tourism sector and financial instruments to fund sustainable energy systems. The conference programme was rounded off by outstanding practical examples and an excursion to the Lake Constance region. About 80 experts from areas such as tourism, communities, energy and conservation attended the conference. The aim of the conference was to bring together the different stakeholders, in order to demonstrate the possibilities of renewable energy in lake regions. Successful practical examples increase the awareness of decision makers for the diverse fields of application of these technologies. The examples presented at the conference showed that the utilisation of renewable energies at a communal level and in businesses lead to financial savings. Moreover, contributions towards protecting the climate have an exemplary function. By now, renewable energies are an important economic factor. The tourist sector also provides countless possibilities for the utilisation of renewable energies, e.g. on camp sites or regarding transport systems.

Practical examples can often be transferred to other regions with similar problems and thus contribute towards reducing CO₂ emissions and im-

Setting a good example: The Lake Constance Solar Ferry HELIO.



prove the overall ecological situation. Since measures for climate and environmental protection require interdisciplinary know-how, an effective communication between the individual stakeholders becomes imperative. Conservation issues must be factored into the development of new technologies. The conference was supported by the Federal Environmental Ministry, and the Federal Environment Agency through funds of the 8th collector's stamp "Klimaschutz geht alle an" (climate protection concerns everyone). The conference documentation "Einsatz erneuerbarer Energien in europäischen Seenregionen im Einklang mit der Natur" (application of renewable energies in European lake regions in close communion with nature) can be found free of charge at www.globalnature.org/SLK.

Nature Conservation Days 2006

The Naturschutztage (Nature Conservation Days) took place in Radolfzell at Lake Constance from 5th to 8th January 2006. Over 500 visitors attended the event. Topics such as "the perspectives for energy and climate" and "the future of our country" were the focal points of the event. One of the event's highlights was the coming of the first minister of Baden-Württemberg, Dr. Günther Oettinger. He had to answer the questions of Ms Dr. Brigitte Dahlbender, deputy chairperson of the BUND - regional organisation Stuttgart. During the Naturschutztage, GNF offered an excursion for children and families in connection with the project „Kids for Birds“. The project was supported by the Stiftung Naturschutzfonds Baden-Württemberg and Aktion Mensch 5.000xZukunft.

Another highlight was the lecture on the world's largest tropical lake, Lake Victoria, by Dr. Obiero Ong'ang'a from the Kenyan environmental organisation OSIENALA - Friends of Lake Victoria. The

Dr Obiero Ong'ang'a gave a first-hand report of the problems at Lake Victoria.



audience was informed about the reasons for the increasing impoverishment of the local population, as well as environmental problems that affect the lake as a whole. Exemplary were the positive approaches such as the replacement of kerosene lamps by solar lamps used to fish sardines.

“Friends of Living Lakes“ at Lake Constance

The second meeting of the „Friends of Living Lakes“ took place from 21st to 23rd September 2006. GNF could welcome five contributors that had come to Radolfzell from all over Germany. Various excursions were undertaken in wonderful late summer weather to the Untersee, the most species-rich part of Lake Constance. A solar boat tour on the Untersee itself, a sightseeing tour of the Müllerhof, a farm which has been ecologically managed for the last 20 years, and a guided tour in the European Diploma of Protected Areas winning Wollmatinger Ried, located between the City of Constance and the Island of Reichenau were all part of the programme. The visitors could observe a surprisingly large gathering of European curlews in the Wollmatinger Ried. During the two days of visit, they learned how a barrier beach is constructed, where the Lake Constance forget-me-not grows, what an Emmer is (old breed of crop), how a biogas facility works and much more. A walk on part of the EU LIFE Lake Constance Trail concluded the visitor programme. The international projects of the Global Nature Fund were presented during a presentation at the office, some of which happen partly at Lake Constance, such as Kids for Birds and Fokus Natur. All visitors expressed favourable comments for the opportunity of learning more about the work of conservation organisations and the international Living Lakes Network, from the example of Lake Constance.

With Professor Thielcke walking along the EU LIFE Lake Constance Trail.



4 Environmental Education

Environmental Education

Living Lakes is a UN-Decade Project

For their work within the Living Lakes Network, GNF received commendations from the German National Committee of the UN-Decade initiative "education for sustainable development". Both GNF and the international network will receive the "Official Decade Project" award for 2006 and 2007. The UN-Decade initiative hereby commends projects that equip people with knowledge and values for a future worth living in and are vital to secure our livelihoods for future generations.

Nature Summer Camps

The Nature Summer Camps were implemented for the fourth time in 2006. Once more the programme was put into action in collaboration with Deutsche Lufthansa AG, Sika AG and the Ziemann Group. Young employees and their kin were hereby given the opportunity to partake actively in the implementation of conservation efforts of Living Lakes partners in Africa and Europe. The volunteers spent two to three weeks in the lake regions. This enabled the conservation organisations to conduct labour-intensive works requiring much manpower. Such workings could thus be accomplished quickly and efficiently with the help of the volunteers. An important aspect of the Nature Summer Camps is the working with local people side by side. This way the participants can gather new cultural experiences and locals have the opportunity to see that people are interested in their home, even across borders.



Teamwork: Summer Camp participants and locals working together towards nature protection.

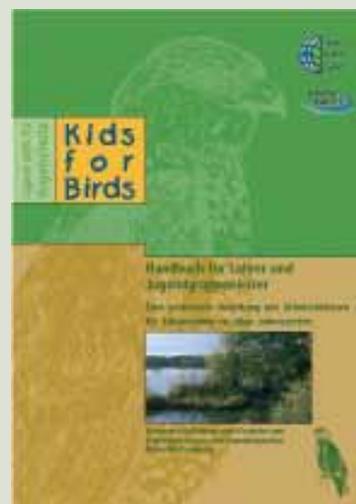


One destination was the South African St. Lucia Lake, South Africa's largest lake and a unique world culture heritage landscape. The volunteers helped the local partner, Wildlands Conservation Trust, with wild animal counts in the uMkhuze sanctuary and a stocktaking of local mammal species.

The other destination was Lake Võrtsjärv in Estonia. Here, the participants helped the local partner, Estonian Fund for Nature (ELF), with restoration works, landscape conservation measures and the repairing of a nature trail and traditional pasture fences in the Pedja nature reserve.

Kids for Birds - Young People actively protect Birds

The idea behind this project was to provide information about the protection of nature in an interesting and exciting manner and thus make it accessible for schools and youth groups. The subject "Birds and their Habitats" is best suited for an alternative presentation of nature conservation in primary schools (forms five and six). The material can also be used for youth groups. Within the scope of the project "Kids for Birds" Global Nature Fund (GNF) has invited children and adolescents aged six to fifteen years to help protect regional birds. At the same time they have the opportunity to acquire information regarding the importance of an intact environment. This environmental education initiative was carried out from September 2005 to December 2006 in the Lake Constance regions of Radolfzell and Ravensburg. Simultaneously, the project was also carried out at Living Lakes locati-



Comprehensive Kids for Birds teaching material can be ordered at GNF free of cost.

ons in the new EU member states Estonia (Lake Võrtsjärv) and Poland (Milicz Ponds). GNF, in cooperation with the local BUND groups of Ravensburg and Möggingen, as well as the East-European nature organisations Estonian Fund for Nature and Pro Nature Poland, was in charge of the project's coordination.

In the focus of the project was the observation and identification of native bird species during different seasons. During excursions the children learned much about the local environment and the many different adaptation concepts of animals to their habitat in a playful manner. The young naturalists had the opportunity to actively take part in a bird competition. In addition, model excursions were offered to teachers and youth group leaders. In an elementary school in the Lake Constance region a two-day project was carried out. A Bird Summer Festival completed the environmental education project. At the end of the project the children exchanged their adventures and experiences with peers in the European partner countries via Internet chat. This way the young people also got to know other countries' history, culture and customs.

In the course of the project a comprehensive manual was developed, containing general information on selected bird species as well as details concerning their living conditions and adaptation to the environment. Moreover, additional work sheets provide details about the organisation of excursions to be carried out during the different seasons. Also included are game manuals and numerous illustrations to be used as master copies. This concept informs children about the importance of an intact nature and how they can actively participate in the protection of native bird species. Furthermore, the manual provides hints and suggestions for the organisation of project

days (lasting one or two days), and in a separate chapter, ideas for presentations regarding "Birds and their Habitat" in school classes are listed.

For free download of the teaching materials please visit www.globalnature.org/kids-for-birds. The project was supported by the Stiftung Naturschutzfonds, using Glücksspirale lottery funds designated for specific purposes. The project was also awarded a grant from Aktion Mensch within the scope of the initiative Aktion 5000xZukunft.



Young ornithologists discover nature.



5 Supported Projects

Supported Projects

The support of concrete environmental projects is a central aspect of "Living Lakes" and "Conservation of cultural landscapes". Upon application, GNF provides grants to support singular projects of partners, especially in developing countries. This way partners have the opportunity to implement transferable model conservation projects. The development funds are mostly acquired by donations. Because of the vital help of our contributors, diverse projects in Indonesia, Russia, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Colombia, Mexico, China, Jordan-Israel, Poland and Spain could be implemented.

Mahakam Wetland, Indonesia

The Indonesian organisation RASI (Rare Aquatic Species of Indonesia) received Euro 7,000 from Global Nature Fund in 2006. Using this fund, RASI conducted detailed ecological and socio-economic studies on the situation within the Mahakam wetland, east of Kalimantan (Borneo). Fishing is the livelihood for the majority of the population there. This vital source of income is under threat through deforestation within the catchment area and the increasingly resulting erosion, sedimentation and unpredictable flooding, pollution of the water by wastewater from coal mining and the illegal practice of electro- and poison-fishing. The extremely endangered Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*), key species of the region's conservation efforts, suffers from the high density of shipping traffic and the use of gillnets. A safety zone for the remaining 70 individuals is finally to be constructed after tireless campaigning by RASI. The promising attribute of this safety zone is the fact that it benefits both humans and dolphins, as local resi-

The rare Irrawaddy dolphin is threatened with extinction just as the Chinese river dolphin Baiji, that died out since 2006.



dents hope for an improvement and securing of their income situation. After receiving the go ahead from the district administration, an extensive survey was conducted among the affected fishermen by RASI, in order to determine their needs as well.

Besides the clear approval rate of 94% for the safety zone, it became apparent that 80% of the fishermen are willing to engage in aquaculture, provided financial start-up aid is given. Aquaculture potentially offers up to three times the current revenues for the fishermen.

Such measures could significantly reduce the current death toll of five dolphin deaths a year through nets. The next steps now include the supporting of the local fishermen so the safety zone is actually put into practice. As soon as the safety zone has been officially created, information about its contents are going to be distributed by means of meetings, posters and teaching in schools. Furthermore, awareness for the importance of other endangered animal species shall also be raised, in order to reduce the number of illegally caught animals usually designated for illegal trade.

Lake Baikal, Russia

The Russian Living Lakes partner organisation Club FIRN has implemented further important measures for the protection of the Baikal seal (*Phoca sibirica*) in 2006.

The financial grant totalling Euro 3,000 was used to furnish a new office, since FIRN was forced to move out of their old office unexpectedly. The money was further used to acquire new photographic and observation equipment for the observing of seals as part of the project "Save the Baikal Seal".

The seal - or Nerpa as the locals call it - can only be found at Lake Baikal and only lives in fresh

Also Pig-tailed Macaque is extremely threatened by deforestation of the Indonesian primeval forests.



water. The primary threat for the seal population is hunting. Even so, seal hunting is not very profitable, since seal fur prices have decreased and hunting licences are expensive. Therefore now seems just the right time to push for an alternative, tourist oriented "utilisation" of the Baikal seal. FIRN has opened the "Nerpa Center" in a traditional Siberian house in Ust-Barguzin. The centre's main function is to sensitise the visitor for the protection of the Nerpa. However, in order to turn the centre into a much visited (tourist) attraction, long-term investments and much work are still needed. Moreover, the offers for winter observations of Nerpa seals are to be developed further. Hunting alternatives were discussed and developed with contributions from hunters, hunting authority, travel agents and park authority.

The first "Nerpa-Photo-Safari" took place April 2006. During this event the tour organisers were given the opportunity to observe the seals in an ecological manner and address their questions to FIRN. Next to publishing reports via press, radio and television, information was also made available on FIRN's website. FIRN's projects were also presented at various Russian and German travel exhibitions, such as the Reisepavillon in Hanover and the Leipzig Fair. There still is a great need for an alternative source of income for the local population. FIRN will continue its project work and will try to create more environmental awareness among the local population, e.g. by staging competitions for children. The project will be continued in 2007.

The unique Baikal seal (called Nerpa) is endemic at Lake Baikal.



Lake Victoria: Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Lake Victoria has a total area of 68,800 square kilometres and is the second largest lake in the world. Fishing is still the most important food source for the local population. 60,000 fishermen are about on the lake with their small boats every night. Equipped with kerosene lamps they attract the Victoria sardine into their nets. Using this method, eight litres of kerosene are needed every night for one fishing boat. This requires the local fishermen to spend half of their income on the expensive fuel. Some of the kerosene leaks into the water. Direct contact with the fuel harms the fishermen's health. The aim of the project, started two years ago by GNF and its Kenyan partner organisation OSIENALA - Friends of Lake Victoria - was to improve the fishermen's income and to reduce the use of kerosene lamps by replacing them with energy efficient solar powered lamps. By using such energy efficient lamps, each fisher can potentially save up to Euro 200 annually, when calculating the 180 nights he spends on the lake.

OSIENALA's "Barn Bank" makes the acquisition of new lamps possible by extending micro-credits to the fishermen. The model project completed in 2006 showed that the new lamps fulfil the fishermen's needs better than the old kerosene lamps. By using the Radio station Radio Lake Victoria, multiple information and demonstration events and training courses for fishermen regarding the new technology could be disseminated. The climate balance is also positive: 22 kg CO₂ emissions are saved per night and boat because of the solar lamps. The pilot project was supported with a total of Euro 10,000 by the Federal Environmental Ministry from funds of the initiative "Sonderbriefmarke: Für den Umweltschutz" (collector's

Up to 60 000 fishermen use Lake Victoria in the three border region of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.



stamp: for the protection of the environment) and the LANDESSTIFTUNG Baden-Württemberg. The fishermen's interest in the solar lamps is profound. GNF and OSIENALA will therefore continue to campaign for a utilisation of this technology at Africa's lakes.

Twin Lakes Maduganga and Madampe, Sri Lanka

A Tsunami destroyed extensive coastal areas of southeast Asia 26th December 2004. Disaster befell thousands of people. However, people's willingness to help was incredible as well. With donations from Germany, GNF was able to start its first project as early as spring 2005. The project aimed at restoring the mangrove forests, in order to create a natural protection zone against the destructive force of the waves. In places where the mangrove forests were still intact, the tsunami did next to no harm, whereas it wreaked havoc only a few kilometres down the coast where the mangrove forests had been destroyed.

Due to their ramified root systems, mangroves form a natural protection against tidal waves. Moreover, mangrove forests are among the world's most species-rich habitats. Nowhere else can one find such a number of fresh and saltwater species. Approximately half of the world's mangrove forests have been irrecoverably lost already. They were drained for rice and palm oil plantations or poisoned through intensive shrimp aquacultures. The disappearing of this unique habitat does not only affect animals and plants in a negative manner, but also affects many of the poorer local families. Especially the fishermen complain about the recession of fish stocks following mangrove deforestations.

In 2006, GNF received additional grants from the European Commission, the Swiss business SIKA, the Serendib Foundation Hamburg and many private contributors, totalling Euro 198,000. Using this money, the project to reforest mangroves could be expanded considerably. In addition, further means regarding environmental education and the creation of new livelihoods could be implemented.

The activities proved to be successful. Our partner organisations in Sri Lanka, the Nagenahiru Foundation and EMACE, have already grown 70,000 mangrove seedlings in 19 mangrove nurseries and have subsequently planted them as part of the reforestation efforts. 120 families received new fishing nets and boats. Additional prospects could be created with traditional handicrafts techniques. In the environmental education centre, young people learn traditional techniques for the making of mats out of coconut fibres or making handbags out of grasses. 40 families received machines for the production of the handicraft products. The sale of such produce improves the income of the respective families.

The Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (gtz) funded an additional GNF project to provide energy saving LED lamps for some of Sri Lanka's fishermen. Traditionally, the fishermen use kerosene lamps to attract prawns at night time. The kerosene needed for this venture is not only expensive, but also harms the environment, since the lamps often leak. The LED lamps that were developed and tested offer an environmentally friendly alternative. In order to pass experiences and know-how onto other countries hit by the tsunami, such as Indonesia, Thailand and India, GNF conducted an international conference in Sri Lanka April 2007.

The reforestation projects create livelihoods for the locals.



Participants of the EU Post Tsunami Conference.



This conference was also attended by the environmental minister of Sri Lanka. A second event in November 2007 and a documentary film are to further spread the word of the success of the project in the southeast Asia region.

Fúquene Lake, Colombia

Fúquene Lake lies 2,540 m above sea level, in Colombia's east. Approx. 260 different bird species can be found on its shores. Marsh wren, yellow-hooded blackbird and Colombian grebe are only some of the indigenous species. While travelling his familiar route between North and South America, the osprey is a regular guest at the lake. Regarding biodiversity, the Fúquene Lake is one of the most valuable regions in the Andes. However, the lake is also threatened by human encroachments such as intensive farming, pipelines and abstraction of water. The aim of the project, that GNF subsidised with Euro 8,000, is to build up nature-related tourism in the region and to restore the natural vegetation on the lake's shores. These measures are all set to conserve the region's biodiversity.

Dry scrub and semi dry forests cover the eastern hills of the lagoon. This vegetation has greatly been affected by human impact. The conservation of the dry forests has been appointed Colombia's primary nature protection goal. The management plan developed by the Fundación Humedales provides for ecological reconstruction between 2007 and 2010. The ambitious renaturation project is implemented by the large scale reforestation and surveillance of these areas. The feeder river water retention measures must be restricted further to allow the lake to regain its natural water level. Fee-

der pipes from farming activities have also been reduced. However, the local farmers need alternative ways to secure their income, or in the least require compensations for the land freeze or for the conversion to extensive farming practices.

In 2006, Fundación Humedales was able to expand their environmental information centre at Fúquene Lake. The centre offers environmental education programmes to schools and communities. Amongst other things, the Fundación published an interesting brochure and a video for children, depicting and commenting on the Fúquene through the eyes of a bird. In addition, Fundación Humedales intensively collaborates with the local fishermen, who worry more and more about the increasing water abstractions and the increasing eutrophication, which especially fosters water hyacinth growth. The team also campaigns with the local communities for the development of sustainable tourism in the lake region. An „Alliance Sustainable Tourism for Lake Fúquene“ was founded for this purpose. Within this alliance, the Fundación Humedales collaborates with vestrymen and authorities. The potential for nature-related tourism is present in the region, so that the project seems to be a promising concept.

Poyang Lake, China

Poyang Lake is the largest freshwater lake in China and a member of the Living Lakes Network since 2002. Due to seasonal fluctuations, the lake's total area varies accordingly - from 1,000 sq.km during the drier months to 4,400 sq.km during the raining season. The circumjacent reed- and swamplands offer ideal habitats for about half a million wading birds and other water fowl. 54 of the over

The natural vegetation at the shores of Lake Fúquene shall be restored.



The Lake Fúquene Environmental Education Centre is also used for environmental education measures.



300 bird species living there appear on the Red List of endangered species. About 95% of the world's Siberian crane population spend the winters at Poyang Lake. But since this extremely poor region lacks effective sewage treatment plants fertilisers, pesticides and heavy metals all freely flow into the lake unfiltered. This in turn impairs the living conditions of fish and micro organisms to a great extent. As a result, the Siberian crane has more and more difficulties in finding enough food, which forces it to venture outside of the existing Ramsar nature reserve to survive. Once outside the sanctuary, these fascinating large birds fall prey to the poor rural population, who try to survive themselves by hunting the cranes. Because of this, the crane population has declined dramatically over the last three years from 4,000 Siberian cranes down to 2,800 specimen.

The Chinese partner organisation MRLSD received a grant of Euro12,000 to implement sustainable farming projects, in order to offer the rural population alternatives to the not very successful cultivation of rice and fishing. An innovative pilot project was started in the Shahushan province two years ago, regarding the sustainable use of the wild grass Lihao and the lotus plant. This concept was subsequently transferred to other regions. However, problems arose during the planting of Lihao. The wild grass is originally an underwater plant and can only be cultivated on dry land by applying new technologies and increased employment of labour. Despite the problems faced, Lihao is a highly demanded foodstuff, usually eaten as a salad. The farmers can therefore earn extra money with its sale on local markets. Through measures such as this and the development of extensive livestock farming, new income sources

are to be provided for the poor farming families. At the same time, hygienic improvements are aimed for in the poorest provinces. As an experiment, cattle are now held in stables and fenced enclosures, as opposed to grazing freely on the wetlands, in an attempt to avoid the further spreading of snail fever (schistosomiasis). Before such measures the parasite could infect humans freely. A snail living in the wetland's waters excretes the parasite larvae which enters the body of humans and mammals moving through the contaminated water by penetrating the skin. The larvae then spread to various organs via the blood vessels and cause a feverish and life threatening disease. By keeping the cattle penned and through the systematic disposal of excrements, e.g. by using a biogas fermentation plant to generate power, the parasitic cycle can be broken and a further spreading of the disease can subsequently be kept in check.

A demonstration project regarding sustainable tourism offers the rural population an additional income source. The local families offer the nature enthusiastic tourists room and board. They can also develop a steady second income source by becoming tourist guides, i.e. to observe the shy Siberian crane. Our partners are calling attention to the rarity of these graceful cranes, a lucky bird in Chinese mythology, by means of an environmental education campaign for teachers and their students. At the same time, MRLSD campaigns for the creation of additional controlled nature reserves around the lake. The project will be continued in 2008.

Discussions with government officials and decision makers, on issues such as sustainable farming and nature conservation at Poyang Lake, were also held during the international Living Lakes Conference autumn 2006 in Nanchang.

Almost 95% of the Siberian Crane population hibernate at Lake Poyang.



The Dead Sea, Middle East: Gardens for Peace

The Living Lakes partner organisation Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME), has for years been campaigning for the implementation of sustainable water management in the Middle East. Therefore FoEME implemented a neighbourly project for to create ecological gardens in two communities at the Dead Sea according to the motto "Gardens for Peace". The Global Nature Fund supported the project with Euro 2,500.

Under instruction from FoEME experts, Israeli and Arabian youths created gardens in the Israeli Tamar region and the Jordanian commune of Safi following the ecological principles. Composted soil and drip irrigation were used for the construction of the gardens. Additionally, only indigenous plants with a low water requirement were planted. Through the project, the youths experienced how their contributions can lead to positive change and also gained skills and experience, which can still be useful to them in future. FoEME members and selected young „water officials“ have taken on the future care taking and maintaining of the gardens. As a result, the awareness for the value of the precious resources water and nature has grown in youths and residents alike, who use the gardens as a recreation area. Contributors to the project received a certificate, signed by Gidon Bromberg, the leader of FoEME.

The installation of gardens contributes to increase the awareness of young people to protect the scarce natural resources.



Milicz Ponds, Poland

In the southwest of Poland, near Wroclaw, over 100 Milicz Ponds are spread over an area of 70 sq.km. The ponds, filled with water from the close by Baretzch River, were created by monks in the 12th century for the breeding of carps. Many of these Milicz Ponds cannot be distinguished from naturally originated waters and form a nature reserve containing over 250 different species of bird. This paradise is threatened by the conversion of meadows into farmland and its subsequent intensive use taking place as part of the EU eastern enlargement. Our Polish partner "Polish Society of Wildlife Friends - pro Natura" opposes this threat with the project "Conservation and Management of Biodiversity in the Baretzch Valley". This project was supported by GNF in 2006 in form of a two-year grant totalling Euro 20,000. The activities are manifold: On the one hand, new areas are bought and existing meadows and ponds are managed on the other. Additional project measures are the monitoring of storks and their nests, as well as environmental education programmes. Pro Natura also campaigns for the improvement of the habitat linking the three existing and one planned Natura 2000 territory. First successes could be scored in 2006. An arrangement was made with the local authorities for a long term management plan of 36 stretches of water for 50 years. Data on the white stork was collected in the Baretzch Valley and amended in 2007. Selected individuals were trained in education programmes, including ex-prisoners who were part of an integration programme titled „black sheep“. In 2007 training programmes for rangers and teachers will be intensified further.

Valuable habitats at the Milicz Ponds thanks to successful restoration measures.



Living Lakes Network Eastern Europe - Germany

The expansion of the EU is also a great challenge with regard to environmental aspects. For the new member states to achieve the EU's environmental standards a development of cooperation and an intensive exchange of experience, as well as financial investments are needed. The aim of the project "Living Lakes Eastern Europe - Germany" is an intensification of the collaboration within the network and the support of the cooperation between NGOs and communities regarding lake protection. Global Nature Fund coordinates this collaboration and the Bodensee-Stiftung contributes its expert knowledge and passes its experience on to the project partners. Partners from Poland, Hungary, Estonia and Lithuania are represented in the new network.

The Hungarian Lake Balaton is the largest freshwater store in central Europe. The lake represents an important protection area, since it contains 41 indigenous fish species, and many rare and strictly protected animal and plant species. The problems along the shoreline, eutrophication, erosion and oil pollution are to be solved as a collaborative effort.

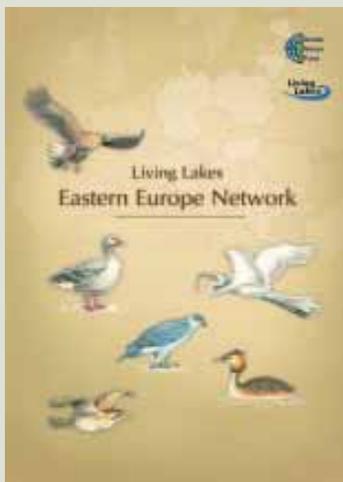
A vast number of amphibians, birds and mammals call the Milicz Ponds, that were created by monks in the 12th century, their home. The region's main income sources are intensive aquaculture and farming, both of which contribute towards polluting the water. Eco-tourism could offer alternatives. Therefore, the Polish partner organisation Pro Na-

tura is developing a tourism preparatory land-use plan, containing the construction of nature bike trails and bird watching platforms among other things.

Lithuania's Labanoras Regional Park has an area of 553 sq.km, containing small lakes, moors and other wetlands. It is home to numerous species of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Weekend tourism forms the central problem in this region. In future, the scores of weekend visitors are thus to be led through the protected areas on nature trails and marked footpaths. The Lithuanian project partner is developing an effective visitor management system and an improved environmental education programme.

Lake Võrtsjärv is the largest lake within Estonia's borders. 35 species of fish live in the lake and it is an important habitat for breeding birds. The lake is threatened by farming, industrial fishing and tourism activities alike.

Lake Peipsi lies at the border between Estonia and Russia. It is one of Europe's largest lakes and is used by up to one million migratory birds as a resting place. This lake also has to cope with similar problems. Since the lake has a great potential for nature-related tourism, the local partner organisations want to develop responsible tourism structures in both regions of the lake. The network is supported financially by the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU) for two years.



The brochure "Living Lakes Eastern Europe Network" can be downloaded from www.globalnature.org/Osteuropa

Commercial fishing and ice fishing contribute to the environmental problems at Lake Peipsi in Estonia.



Project for the conservation of cultural landscapes

Extremadura, Spain

One of Europe's most beautiful natural and cultural landscapes can be found in the southwest of Spain: the Extremadura. The Extremadura is characterised by Dehesas - thinned out, park like holm and cork oak forests. They provide natural grazing areas for the black domestic pigs and the white Extremadura cattle. The Dehesas are also an important habitat for rare and endangered wild animal species. Thousands of cranes spend their winters here every year and eat the fatty acorns. Further endangered species, such as white and black stork, imperial eagle, Eurasian black vulture, eagle owl and Iberian lynx, also find suitable habitats in this sparsely populated region. The tasks and concerns of our Spanish partners are the protection, conservation and sustainable development of the region.

The staff of Fundación Global Nature organises all environmental education and species protection projects from their base at the environmental education centre "La Dehesa" in Torejón el Rubio. The centre was expanded and modernised in 2006 in order to cope with the growing number of overnight guests. One of the Fundación's most important campaigns is the prevention of wood fires. Wood fires destroy countless hectares of wood and bush every year. For this purpose the Fundación creates and distributes information material to schools, initiates educational events and supports the reforestation of burnt down areas. Seven hectares of land could be reforested with holm and cork oaks in 2006. The project "Utilisation of Renewable Energies" was also started by the Fundación in 2006.

In September 2006, the Fundación initiated an additional project for the creation of wetlands on the Finca "El Baldío", in order to conserve suitable habitats for storks, fish otter and lynx. For this purpose, the Fincas in the region around Monfragüe are initially recorded and surveyed. The aim is to generate concrete proposals for the improvement of existing wetlands and the construction of new ponds. The improvement of the lynx's food sources are an important prerequisite for its protection. Therefore, the wild rabbit population is increased by creating artificial rabbit warrens and planting cereals. Apart from the Iberian lynx the imperial eagle, golden eagle, eagle owl and the feral cat all profit from these measures.

The development of the biosphere reserve Monfragüe into a national park received specialist support from the Fundación and is a great success. Now one can only wait and see if the new protection status leads to new financial means for Monfragüe in order to implement further important tasks regarding the protection of nature. The Global Nature Fund supported the work of our Spanish partners with a total of Euro 3,500.

In the Extremadura Eurasian Black Vulture and Imperial Eagle find suitable retreat areas.



The Iberian Lynx benefits from the conservation measures in the Extremadura.



Majorca and the Balearic Islands, Spain

The "Holiday Island" of Majorca has been subject to a rapid structural change over the past few years. It was mostly caused by mass tourism and traffic and infrastructure policies. Our partner GOB (Grup Balear d'Ornitologia i Defensa de la Naturalesa) has attempted to conserve the natural environment of the Balearic Islands by implementing exemplary projects and actions. The Finca "La Trapa" in the Tramontana mountains is the most important contact point for GOB. Measures for the conservation of biodiversity and traditional farming techniques are demonstrated there. Training programmes and sightseeing tours also take place there regularly. Every year over 10,000 visitors come to the Finca. Local branches of GOB are also active on other Balearic Islands. Winter 2006 GOB published a handbook with "Tips for conserving the cultural landscape of the Balearic Islands", aimed especially at the islands' German residents. The handbook explains how residents can behave in an ecological and environmentally friendly manner by providing practical examples.

The campaign "We are saving Majorca from destruction" is still under way. The five competing laws on spatial planning are to be replaced by a uniform law on regional development, so that the stealthy and mostly illegal transformation of farmland into building land is slowed and various large-scale building projects are prevented. Golf courses, of which Majorca has 18, are one such example, with additional courses still being planned. The golf courses cut up the various wild animal habitats and waste tremendous amounts of water. Since drinking water is scarce on the Balearic Islands in any case, GOB has demanded the immediate closure of such environmentally unfriendly pleasure grounds time and time again. Ma-

ajorca also has the world's second largest vehicle density, second only to Hong Kong. The Island counts 900 vehicles per 1,000 residents. GOB therefore demands that the rail network and local public transport are both expanded. Such measures could lead to a marked reduction in rental cars. Easter 2007 GOB organised a large scale demonstration in Palma, which was attended by 50,000 people. They demanded the stopping of planned and already begun building projects, such as motorways, new holiday estates and ports.

Species protection is an important part of GOB's work. Protection projects for the Eurasian black vulture, red kite and Eleonora's falcon are being implemented. Osprey and the elegant Audouin's gull are also endangered by the increasing development of the coast. End of 2006 GOB started a protection campaign for whales and dolphins in the Mediterranean. A systematic scientific study is to acquire concrete data on the occurrence of the marine mammals and any threats in the Mediterranean. This data is the basis for the development of new protection measures and the creation of new appropriate protected areas. The ever increasing number of beached trumpet whales and dolphins on the Balearic Island is proof of the fact that such new measures are urgently needed.

In the meantime, GOB has created identification boards and brochures on the Mediterranean in multiple languages, organised lectures and training sessions in yacht clubs and with fishermen on the Balearics and promoted environmentally friendly fishing methods. Furthermore, the illegal disposal of waste and wastewater must be stopped. GNF could support this project in its initial phase with a total of Euro 30,000.

The idyllic landscape in Majorca must be protected against further destruction.



The habitats of the rare Audouin's Gull are affected by increasing tourism activities.



Public Relation Work

Global Nature Fund has intensified its PR work over the last years, in order to keep the public informed about the current developments at the Living Lakes partner lakes. Press releases regarding topics on nature and the environment are published regularly and sent to over 1,000 addresses. GNF has documented the media's response in a press review. Four editions of a newsletter are published annually in German and English. This "GNF-Newsletter" informs on current projects, events and interesting publications. Interested parties receive the quarterly information package free of charge via email.

Mailings are sent out four to five times each year. These mailings contain appeals for donations for concrete projects for the protection of endangered species in our partner regions. Additionally, GNF releases various publications regarding current nature and environmental affairs. The Living Lakes Conferences are documented in extensive publications, in order to keep the general public informed. As an alternative for school lessons on bird protection, GNF published the brochure "Kids for Birds" for teachers and youth group leaders. This brochure has proven to be incredibly popular.



Threatened Lake of the Year 2006 - The Dead Sea

During the World-Wetland-Day on 2nd February 2006, GNF called attention to the dramatic situation of the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea is the world's most saline lake and lies 417 metres below sea level, at the lowest natural point on the Earth's surface. The Dead Sea is under threat of drying out due to the dramatic falling of water levels. On average, the lake's water level recedes by one metre each year. The reason for this dramatic decline is the diverting of water from the Jordan, the lake's main feeder river. This natural inflow of water is greatly reduced by dams, pumps and reservoirs. The majority of the water is hereby used for immensely subsidized and partly inefficient farming activities and as a drinking water supply for the bordering countries. Originally, 1.3 billion cubic metres of water flowed into the Dead Sea from the Jordan River. Today, only about 0.1 billion cubic metres of extremely polluted river water actually reach the saline lake. In parts, even the Jordan River itself often dries out already. GNF and its partner organisation Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME) are campaigning to have the Dead Sea nominated as a UNESCO world culture heritage site and to reduce the amounts water diverted from the Jordan River.

The Dead Sea's neighbouring counties are planning a drastic measure to prevent the Dead Sea from drying up. A gigantic canal, over 200 km long, is to connect the Red Sea with the Dead Sea. Conservationists see this gigantic project in a very critical light. Not only might the mixing of waters of completely different salinity have irreversible consequences - the water of the Dead Sea is ten times saltier than that of the Red Sea - but also the diverting of water from the Red Sea can damage coral reefs at the place of diversion. The exact consequences of such a mixing of waters is incredibly difficult to predict and research. However, experts proceed to the assumption that intensive gypsum formation would occur in the Dead Sea, notably changing the water quality for ever and therefore impairing tourist activities a great deal.

Media Work

Press responses

In 2006 the GNF issued 20 press releases concerning current issues regarding the protection of nature and the environment. Especially the report regarding the "Threatened Lake of the Year" received much publicity. Amongst others, the Bild-Zeitung, with a run of 11 million copies, and the daily newspaper Bremer Nachrichten published an article in Din-A4 format including pictures, titled "The Dead Sea is shrinking".

Bild, 01/02/06: *The Dead Sea's water level sinks by one metre every year! Because the lake is under threat of drying up completely, the environmental foundation Global Nature Fund (GNF) nominated the Dead Sea as the "Threatened Lake of the Year 2006".*

Südkurier, 05/09/06: *The Global Nature Fund organised the first "Solar Lakes Conference" in connection with the Interboot exposition.*

The utilisation of renewable energies in European lake regions is the main issue on the first Solar Lakes Conference, organised by the Global Nature Fund in collaboration with the Nature and Environmental Protection Office of the City of Friedrichshafen, which took place from 24th to 27th September in connection with the Interboot exposition in the Neue Messe Friedrichshafen. [...]. The mayor Josef Büchelmeier, who will open the conference together with environmental minister Tanja Gönner, welcomed the fact that the Global Nature Fund organises this event in Friedrichshafen.

The 11th Living Lakes Conference in China was mentioned in the Tagesschau (TV News).



natur + kosmos 1/12/06: *We are planting hope*

[...] Contributors must be patient: a newly planted mangrove forest will fulfil its duties 20 to 30 years down the line at the earliest. [...] Protection for coastal residents: Because mangroves retard tidal waves many mangrove nurseries have been created since the tsunami catastrophe - such as those on Sri Lanka implemented by the Global Nature Fund.

Offenburger Tagblatt 12/12/06 *The kingdom of cranes is under threat*

Water pollution - One of China's most immediate problems [...]

[...] At the first Lake Protection Conference in China - the international "Living Lakes" Conference of the German Global Nature Fund (GNF) - the lake stood in the spotlight.

Berlin taz: *"China is moving closer and closer to an ecological disaster. [...] The commitment of Global Nature Fund, Greenpeace and others [...] who have expanded their campaigns in China [...] thus becomes all the more commendable. Today they feed the basis for ecological awareness in a country on which the world will yet be dependent on in future."*

Internet

GNF's websites www.globalnature.org and www.livinglakes.org were visited by 50,000 interested people each month. The content of the website www.livinglakes.org was transferred to www.globalnature.org spring 2007. Interested parties can find information on the environmental foundation's current projects and background information on partner lakes. GNF's website is accessible in four languages: German, English, Spanish and Russian. On the site www.solarschiffnetzwerk.de visitors can inform themselves on everything they need to know about solar shipping traffic in Germany. The results of EU-Life projects are presented on www.livingwetlands.org. The progress made in the post tsunami projects funded by the EU can be found under: www.globalnature.org/sri-lanka and www.globalnature.org/post-tsunami.

7 Partners from the Business Sector

Partners from the Business Sector

Climate protection and sustainable energies, reduction of emissions and the protection of drinking water: now more than ever, environmental issues are in the public's mind and thus offer companies diverse marketing opportunities. But nature protection has also become a decided economic factor. Many companies are dependent on natural resources such as oil, water or specific plant or animal species. The fact that nature protection can provide a company with a marked competitive edge is only becoming part of economical reasoning very slowly. Al Gore, US-Vice President in the Clinton administration, started the environmental debate again with his film "An Inconvenient Truth". "Indeed all of us have a need to take immediate and ongoing steps to preserve the habitability of our precious planet.", a quote from Al Gore's speech on the occasion of receiving the DUH-Umwelt-Medienpreis of our partner organisation Deutsche Umwelthilfe.

The trading of emissions, the Kyoto-Protocol and Clean Development Mechanism: the field of work has become more diverse for environmental and nature protection organisations and the demands have increased accordingly. In 2008 Germany will host the ninth Contractual State Conference for Biodiversity. Past conferences for biodiversity have hardly been noticed by the public. In order to change this fact, Global Nature Fund is collaborating with the Federal Environment Ministry and other players to start an open dialogue in the run up to the conference. The issues at stake are a stronger integration of companies into the biodiversity process, and a more intense cooperation of environmental organisations, companies and the government. Companies' model projects and initiatives are to add to the dialogue and become the base for new partnerships in the long run.

Since its founding GNF has been seeking companies that deal with the issue of sustainability and environmental targets in an honest manner, with the intention to collaborate. Thus GNF puts more weight on cooperation rather than confrontation. Based on this long standing cooperation with companies from very diverse sectors, GNF could gather experiences and thus develop model approaches for the future.

Unilever is a globally active company producing both food and non-food products. The company is also a partner of the Living Lakes Network and the most important supporter of GNF since 1998. The protection of water is embedded in the company's philosophy. The resource Water is also one of Unilever's three central sustainability targets next to fishery and agriculture. Unilever is one of the founding members of the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). The MSC is an independent, global, non-profit organisation campaigning for sustainable fishery. The problem of overfishing is of extreme importance for a company operating in the food sector. By being involved in the Living Lakes initiative, Unilever supports sustainable management and the protection of water in lake regions.

DaimlerChrysler has also supported Global Nature Fund from the start. Evidence for DaimlerChrysler's statement to protect natural resources and to conserve an intact environment as part of their corporate responsibility can be found in the German Corporate-Governance-Codex. DaimlerChrysler could implement a greater number of the codex's recommendations in 2006. The company is also a member of the Dow Jones Sustainability Index. For years now DaimlerChrysler has improved its environmental balance by utilising renewable raw materials to build its vehicles.

The **Deutsche Lufthansa AG** has supported the Living Lakes project since 1998 and has also been a supporter of GNF for many years. Lufthansa is aware of its environmental responsibility and is continually investing in ecologically improved company processes. Thus Lufthansa could reduce the kerosene consumption of its fleet by 29.3% between 1991 and 2006. But the company does not seek improvement only in terms of kerosene consumption, but also to find ways to conserve resources as much as possible when on the ground. An example would be Lufthansa's innovative engine cleaning processes.

For four years now Lufthansa has been a partner in the Nature Summer Camp project. In this project, the company's employees work together with locals to implement nature and environmental projects in emerging nations. November 2006 Lufthansa launched its project "Miles to Help". For the first time Miles&More customers have the opportunity to donate their bonus miles for environmental and nature projects of GNF.

8 Cooperation with National and International Institutions

The Ludwigsburg company **A. Ziemann GmbH**, a producer of brewery production units, has also been collaborating with GNF for five years. For Ziemann water protection is a matter of course, since pristine water is a requirement for the production of good beer. Ziemann was commended as one of the Top 100 German Innovators summer 2006. Ziemann is also a partner of GNF's Nature Summer Camp project.

The globally active company **Sika AG**, located in Switzerland, has been supporting Living Lakes since 2005. Sika produces processing materials to seal, bond, cushion, reinforce and protect supporting structures in construction works and industry. Sika has continually reduced the water consumption within its production process and has been certified according to ISO 14001 for ten years. The focal points for its support within the Living Lakes structure lie in projects in Sri Lanka, Colombia, Kenya and Poland. Sika is also committed to the Nature Summer Camp project.

The **Serendib Foundation** supports the post tsunami project in Sri Lanka and the **Anton Ehrmann-Foundation** supports a project for the integration of youths into the conservation of the natural heritage in the Barguzin River Valley at Lake Baikal.

SCA-Danke supported the reforestation measures in seven Living Lakes regions in 2006.

EthikBank and the GLS-Gemeinschaftsbank are supporters of the GNF in the banking sector. The **Ethikbank** invests the money of their clients according to ethical and ecological criteria and is involved in projects at Lake Baikal. The **GLS-Gemeinschaftsbank** offers savings accounts and bonds under the heading of "Living Lakes Project Savings". The returns on interest are hereby credited to nature and environmental projects of GNF.

But GNF is not supported by companies alone. The **European Union**, the **Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt**, the **Federal Environmental Ministry**, the **Federal Office for Nature Protection**, the **Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)**, the **Landesstiftung Baden-Württemberg** and the **City of Friedrichshafen** supported the numerous and diverse projects and activities of GNF in 2006 and 2007. Partner in the media is the environmental magazine **natur+kosmos**.

Cooperation with National and International Institutions

Existing partnerships are with the administration of the **Ramsar Convention** (convention for the protection of wetlands) and the administration of the **Bonn Convention** of the UNEP/CMS. Living Lakes was accredited as an official Decade-Project of the **UNESCO** initiative "Education for a sustainable development".

The **Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V. (DUH)** actively had part in creating the Global Nature Fund. Both environmental organisations are therefore linked by strong parallels regarding content and organisational matters. DUH is a charitable nature and environmental protection organisation and has acquired an additional focal point regarding consumer protection over the last years. DUH implements campaigns and projects such as "Living Rivers" and "Energy Saving Community". Measures for the promotion of a circular economy, reusable systems, air monitoring and climate protection round off their work plan. DUH also supports projects of other environmental organisations such as BUND and NABU. DUH supports the Living Lakes initiative as part of the T-Mobile programme "Phoning for the environment".

A nice Nature Summer Camp snapshot.



Financing Projects

Like many other foundations, Global Nature Fund must acquire the funds for its projects on its own. To complicate matters, the GNF is no capital foundation, which means that it cannot profit from the interest generated by some projects. Financial means must be found for every single project, as well as for GNF's entire coordination effort of the international Living Lakes Network. The four pillars of financing are the funding applications to various organisations or foundations, collaboration with commercial partners, mailings and allocations from summary proceedings. Every pillar has become smaller over the last few years. It becomes more and more difficult to obtain donations and subsidies. Permanent public relations are therefore a very important aspect of our work, since it allows us to present our successes, but on the other hand also helps us to find new ways of financing.

Donations

Contributors, project sponsors and supporters, help GNF to implement project ideas and many project proposals of its Living Lakes partner organisations. Without a dedicated circle of donors it would often be impossible to support existing projects or to get new projects under way. Often this capital contributes towards the equity ratio, that is needed for institutionally supported projects. Without provision of this equity cost several of these projects could not be accomplished. In 2006 GNF campaigned for the following projects: habitat protection for the European ground squirrel and the white stork in Poland, conservation of cultural landscapes on Majorca and in the Extremadura in Spain, the protection of Siberian cranes at Lake Poyang in China, an environmental education project "Gardens for Peace" in the Middle East and along the Dead Sea, protection of Irrawaddy dolphins in Indonesia and reforestation of mangrove forests in Sri Lanka. In addition, testations can, depending

on the wishes of the decedent, contribute towards our projects or flow directly into the foundation's funds. Yet too few people use this opportunity to ensure that interests they found important in life, continue to be supported in future. GNF has composed a 16 page booklet on how to draw up a valid testament. The booklet that can be obtained from GNF free of charge.

Allocations

In Germany, allocations are made by courts and public prosecution offices from summary proceedings to charitable organisations. The fined party therefore pays his fine to a charitable organisation. This resulted from the state's deliberation that those institutions that assume social (and/or state) duties, such as welfare work, emergency services or environmental conservation, are helped through these allocations. However, in times of an empty treasury this idea has taken a back seat. The inflow from fines to charitable organisations has taken a massive decline. Unfortunately this has led to the fact that the other categories of fundraising have become ever more important.

Allowances

The 11th Living Lakes Conference took place 2006 in China. Fixed development funds in the scale of previous years were missing for the first time. However, GNF could obtain the promise of organisations such as the UN-organisation **CiCete** (China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchange), the **UNEP** (United Nations Environment Programme) and **FAO** China (UN-Food and Agriculture Organisation), to support the international conference in the form of small donations. The **Province of Perugia**, also made a valuable financial contribution towards the success of the conference.

The two-year project "Renewable Energies for Fishermen at Lake Victoria" ended 2006. Subject matters of the project were educational measures regarding topics such as energy efficiency and

Examples of GNF fundraising donation letters in 2006.



renewable energies, as well as an international seminar and global circulation of information. The sponsorship came from the funds of the Deutsche Post AG's "**Special Stamp: For Nature Conservation**", the **Federal Environment Ministry** and **GTZ/GATE**. The **LANDESSTIFTUNG** Baden-Württemberg also contributed towards the successful implementation of the solar energy and efficiency campaign at Lake Victoria. In 2006 another project was implemented and completed successfully by **GTZ** within the GATE programme. In only six months, all tests regarding the effective use of LED-lamps at the Lakes Bolgoda, Maduganga and Madampe in Sri Lanka, were completed. The target groups were fishermen and private homes in the villages around the lakes.

An international conference for the development of the use of renewable energy in Europe's lake regions, solar technologies being one of the main agendas, was supported by the **Federal Environment Agency**, as well as the **EU**, and took place in Friedrichshafen at Lake Constance fall 2006, titled „Solar Lakes Conference“.

The **Stiftung Naturschutzfonds** Baden-Württemberg was sponsor of the yearlong environmental education project "Kids for Birds - young people actively protect birds". The different project parts were implemented with the help of our Living Lakes partners at Lake Võrtsjärv in Estonia, the Bartsch Lowlands in Poland and in the Lake Constance region. The booklet constructed within the project ought to be a useful tool for teachers and group leaders and a sensible guide for educational purposes. The "**Aktion Mensch**" of the German disabled care supported part of the project within their "5000xZukunft" programme.

The project: "Living Lakes Network Germany - Eastern Europe" has been running since 01st January 2006. 50% of the project is supported financially by the **Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt**. Goals of the project include the intensification of collaboration within the network - especially in the case of the new EU member states - develop sustainable tourism and fishing methods, construct an environmentally friendly land use plan and regional development plan, as well as creating ecological tourist management in nature protection areas.

Donations in kind

The collective office occupied by GNF together with the Deutsche Umwelthilfe yields synergy effects (IT support, graphics, mailing) which results in lower costs overall for the GNF. But also donations in kind, such as printers, computers, binoculars, life vests, solar technology components, drinking water purification or repair benefits help us and our Living Lakes partners to reduce costs further. At the same time our commercial partners support us as best as they can. Deutsche Lufthansa AG provides us with flight benefits, without which neither the project monitoring nor the annual Living Lakes Conferences would be possible. But also the provision of a service, such as the printing of information materials and articles free of charge, as is done by the environment magazine natur+kosmos, helps to reduce costs and also serves the excellent purpose of informing the public about our projects.

The participating children discover with great interest and fun the region around Lake Constance...



...and at the same time at the Milicz Ponds in Poland.



Outline 2007

GNF's campaign focus is again manifold in 2007. The Post Tsunami Conference with over 100 experts April 2007, newly arising national networks and events such as the Living Lakes Eastern Europe - Germany training course or Fokus Natur are all part of the diverse spectrum of activities.

Living Lakes Italia

The successful Living Lakes concept is being adopted elsewhere. The creation of regional Living Lakes networks is to increase and facilitate the collaboration between the various members and spread the coordinative burden onto more shoulders. The lakes Trasimeno, Bolsena, Garda, Piediluco und Maggiore came together on 15th June 2007 during the Sport-Environment-Conference in order to create the network "Living Lakes Italia", coordinated by the partners from Lake Trasimeno. Another conference highlight was the swimming through of the entire Lake Trasimeno in seven hours by the famous Spanish swimmer Carlos Peña. Global Nature Fund and the Bodensee-Stiftung wish to win over this committed environmentalist to swim through Lake Constance as part of the field observation fair "Fokus Natur"

Post Tsunami-Conference in Sri Lanka

The EU supported post tsunami project in Sri Lanka has been running since December 2005, as was reported in the chapter "Supported Projects". During the international "Post Tsunami Living LakesConference", which took place 23rd to 26th April,

The founding ceremony of the Living Lakes network Italy in June 2007.



experts could inform themselves regarding the development and success of the mangrove reforestation measures. The aim of the conference was to promote international collaboration and to transfer positive experiences to other tsunami affected countries, such as Indonesia, Thailand and India.

Nature Summer Camps 2007

In collaboration with the industrial partners Lufthansa, Ziemann and Sika, GNF offered Nature Summer Camps at Lake St. Lucia in South Africa and at the Estonian lakes Peipsi and Võrtsjärv. Company employees and their kin will hereby support the Living Lakes partner organisations during conservation efforts, environmental education activities and stock-taking of endangered species.

Miles to Help

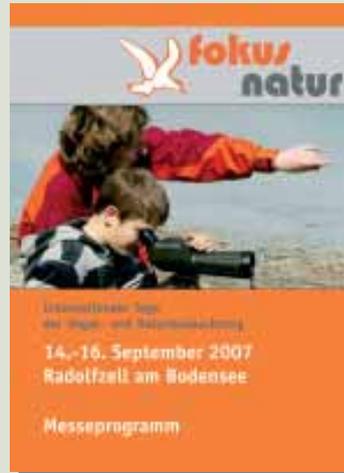
Global air traffic has more than doubled over the last 20 years. Environmental organisations justifiably see this increase in air travel in a critical light, due to the ever increasing emissions. Since 1st November 2006 the Lufthansa AG, in collaboration with GNF, offers its passengers the possibility to donate their bonus miles. As part of the "Miles to Help" initiative, Lufthansa and Star Alliance passengers can hereby donate their bonus miles received through the Miles&More system for environmental and nature protection projects of GNF. Three projects can be supported within the initiative. Further information can be found at www.globalnature.org/miles-to-help.

The "Miles to Help" campaign supports the unique Pantanal wetland in South America.



Fokus Natur

The International Field Observation Days “Fokus Natur“ will take place in Radolfzell at Lake Constance from 14th to 16th September 2007. Nature will be the focal point of the trade fair. Exhibitors from the sectors optics, outdoor and tourism will present their products. An elaborate supporting programme including excursions to the local nature reserve or trips on a solar ferry, as well as various children’s events are planned. GNF will also be present as an exhibitor and contribute towards several programme points. Further information can be found on the Fokus Natur website: www.fokusnatur.com.



Training Course in the Network Eastern Europe - Germany

A five day training course was conducted May 2007, in connection with the new network “Living Lakes Eastern Europe - Germany“. The new network was created by the Bodensee-Stiftung and GNF in 2006. An incredibly diverse programme awaited the 22 environmental and lake experts from Estonia, Poland, Hungary and Germany at Lake Constance. The participants could gather and exchange experiences regarding sustainable tourism and environmentally friendly lake management during the interesting excursions and the various workshops. A visit at an Eco-Camping site was of particular interest to the participants, since camping is becoming more and more popular in the new EU member states. The participants feedback was exceedingly positive, lastly also because of the transferability of numerous measures presented at the conference, such as shore renaturation measures. Much interest was also expressed regarding renewable energies. The direct exchange of experience on site proved to be a successful path for effective collaboration.



Environmental experts from Estonia, Poland, Hungary and Germany exchanged their experiences in the fields of sustainable tourism and environment-friendly management.

GNF-Office

Contact Information of GNF-Team

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Udo Gattenlöhner	Executive Director	+49 7732-9995-80
Bettina Jahn	Project Management	+49 7732-9995-84
Stefanie Lampert	Project Management	+49 7732-9995-82
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Ursula Ehinger	Project Assistance and Administration	+49 7732-9995-86
Gudrun Schomers	Secretariat and Translation	+49 7732-9995-12
Ulrike Novak	Accounting Assistance	+49 7732-9995-83
Almut Weis	Webmaster	+49 7732-9995-83
Trainee	Project Assistance	+49 7732-9995-82
Stefan Hörmann	Office Bonn, Project Management	+49 228-3862106
Albert Wotke	Office Berlin	+49 30-258986-0
Marion Hammerl	GNF-President	+49 7732-9995-45
Prof. Dr. Gerhard Thielcke	GNF-Honorary President	(† passed away 22 nd July 2007)

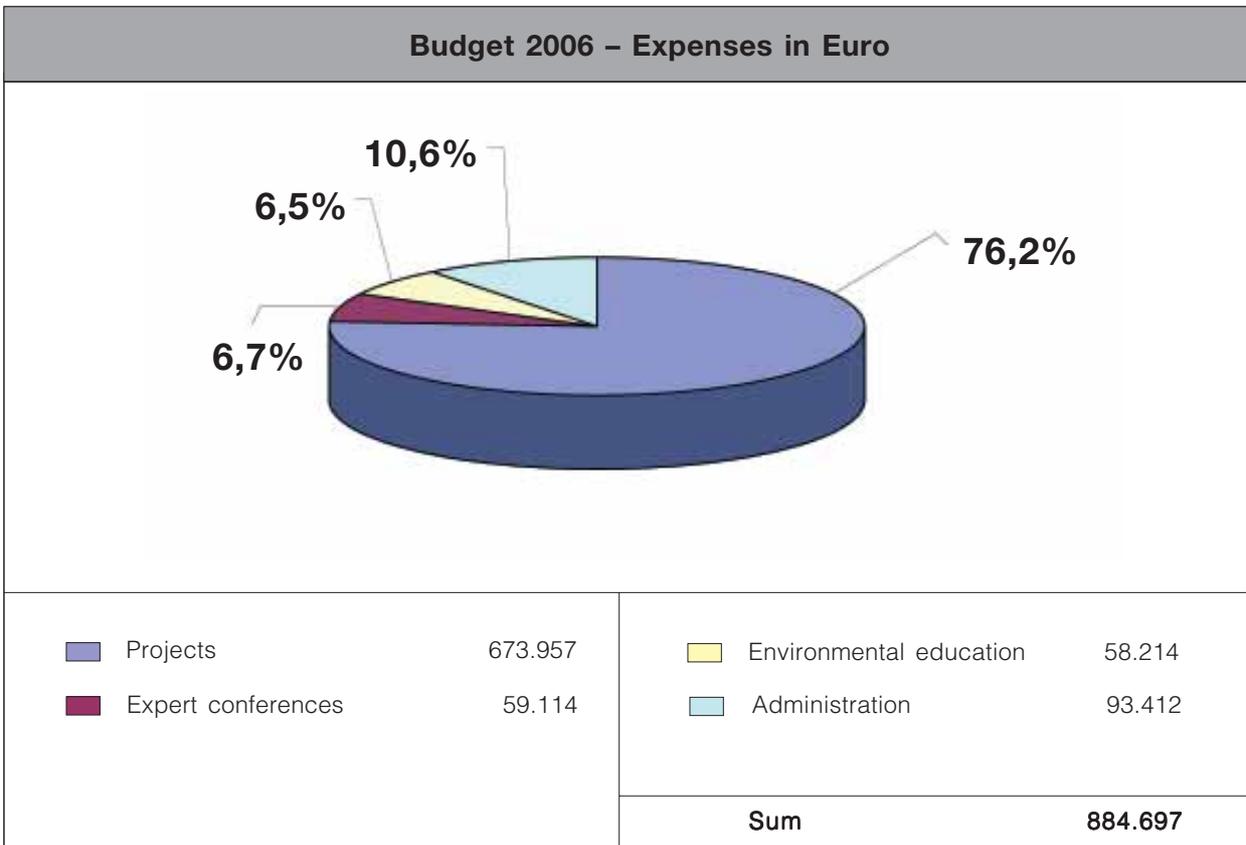
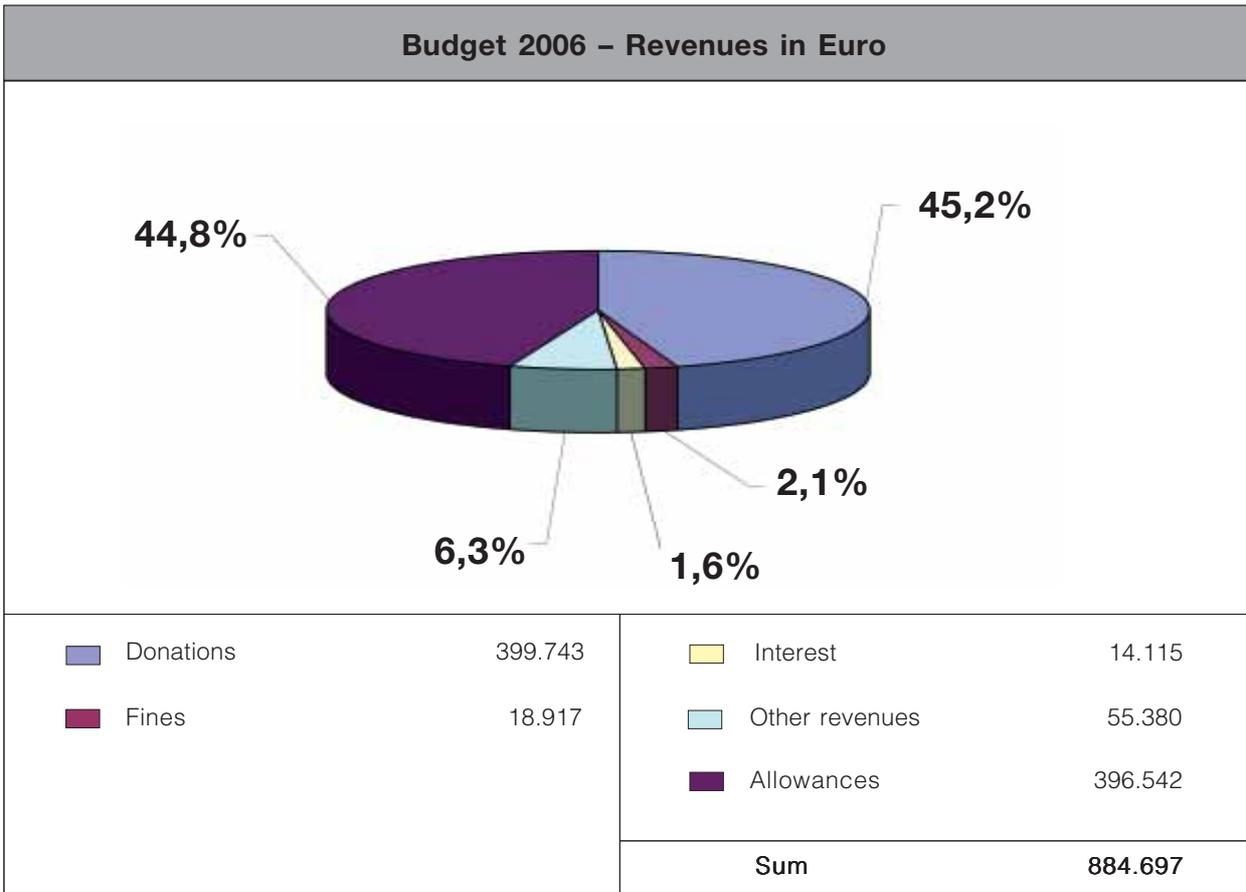
GNF Team



Expenses		Personnel	Sum
Projects			
Living Lakes	38.657,81	30.686,60	
Solar Lakes	9.120,90	4.941,86	
St. Lucia	400,00		
Nestos	12,00		
Lake Baikal	3.047,00		
Milicz Ponds	20.000,50		
Pantanal	1.325,00		
Dead Sea	3.380,00		
Laguna Fuquene	9.450,68		
Mahakam Wetlands	7.015,00		
Chapala	423,77		
Lake Poyang	12.275,00		
Sri Lanka (Maduganga, Bolgoda)	12.252,40		
EU-LIFE-Projekt (2001)	193,02		
EU-Eco-Asia-Projekt	249.525,27	53.139,22	
Lake Victoria	10.274,32	5.498,74	
kids for birds (Stiftung NF, Aktion Mensch)	36.344,21	16.425,73	
Solar Lakes Conference (EUIE, UBA)	69.222,78	47.008,02	
Network Eastern Europe (DBU)	125.960,80	46.570,64	
Solar Lamps, Sri Lanka (GTZ)	27.430,73	4.680,93	
Cultural Landscapes	6,00		
Extremadura	3.500,00		
Majorca	17,00		
Whales and Dolphins (Balearic Islands)	30.048,47		
Murcia (Mar Menor)	1.079,67		
Cultural Landscape River Elbe	2.995,25	2.995,25	673.957,58
Expert Conferences	<u>59.113,89</u>	19.009,36	59.113,89
Environmental Education	<u>58.213,66</u>	25.962,40	58.213,66
Administration	<u>92.929,20</u>	36.303,57	92.929,20
Appropriation to reserves		<u>293.222,32</u>	<u>482,80</u> <u>884.697,13</u>
Income			
Interest and Investment proceeds			14.114,66
Dissolution liabilities			10.000,00
Dissolution liabilities EU-projects			0,00
Reimbursement tangible costs			30.015,70
Reimbursement personnel costs			14.824,41
Fines			18.916,97
Donations			
General donations	44.159,86		
Earmarked for special purposes	37.859,06		
Resulting from actions	52.308,73		
Supporters	1.715,00		
Patronages	27.192,11		
Free advertising	4.098,93		
Big donations	230.909,99		
In-kind donations	<u>1.499,65</u>		399.743,33
Allowances			
for actions and campaigns	183.499,20		
for Conferences (BFN, Cicete, UNEP)	12.015,31		
for EU-Eco-Asia project	<u>201.027,46</u>		396.541,97
Others			
Other revenues	540,09		540,09
Withdrawal from reserves			<u>0,00</u> <u>884.697,13</u>

Radolfzell, 31.07.2007, audited by Dr. Herberger GmbH

ACTIVA/Assets	EUR	EUR	<u>2005 in TEUR</u>	
I. Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets				
Office equipment	4.228,91		4,55	
Financial Assets				
1. Investments (Oeko Geno)	306,78		0,31	
2. Reinsurance pension fund	40.357,50		38,92	
3. loans	<u>1.500,00</u>		<u>0,00</u>	
		46.393,19		43,78
II. Current Assets				
1. Cash in hand and cash at bank				
Cash	549,72		0,12	
Bank accounts	171.305,97		37,06	
Fixed term deposit, GLS-Bank	249.593,32		248,87	
Fixed term deposit, EthikBank	315.150,00		103,81	
transit money	0,00		0,00	
2. Receivables				
Receivables from suppliers + services	85.724,41			
Receivables from EU	0,00			
Other Receivables	478,90		130,87	
Rent deposit	2.780,26		2,77	
3. Other assets				
Security paper (investments)	<u>0,00</u>	825.582,58	<u>209,48</u>	732,98
III. Active Adjustment				
		<u>521,55</u>		<u>0,71</u>
		<u>872.497,32</u>		<u>777,47</u>
 PASSIVA/Liabilities				
I. Foundation capital				
payments to foundation capital	<u>30.000,00</u>	387.638,04		357,64
II. Balance carried forward on 01-01-2006				
appropriation/withdrawal	<u>236.934,42</u>	237.417,22	322,51	
	482,80		-85,57	236,94
III. Liabilities				
Trade liabilities	32.392,83		26,21	
Liabilities project grants	69.058,69		32,64	
Liabilities EU project	0,00		0,00	
Liabilities salaries and wages	4.420,23		11,99	
Other Liabilities	0,00		4,02	
Liabilities VAT (7%)	<u>5.250,00</u>	111.121,75	7,00	81,86
IV. Provisions				
Retirement provisions	40.357,50		38,92	
Other provisions	<u>48.758,81</u>	89.116,31	32,06	70,98
V. Passive Adjustment				
		<u>47.204,00</u>		<u>30,05</u>
		<u>872.497,32</u>		<u>777,47</u>



Addresses of Living Lakes Partners

coordination



Global Nature Fund (GNF)
International Foundation
for Environment and Nature
e-mail: info@globalnature.org
Websites: www.globalnature.org

Partner Organisations

AFRICA

Lake St. Lucia; South Africa



The Wilderness Foundation
e-mail: info@sa.wild.org
Website: www.wildernessfoundation.org.za



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

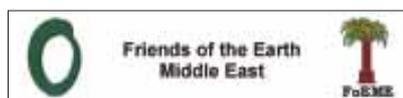
Lake Victoria; Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda



OSIENALA (Friends of Lake Victoria)
e-mail: osienala@swiftkisumu.com
Website: www.osienala.org

ASIA

Dead Sea; Israel, Jordan and Palestine



FoEME - Friends of the Earth Middle East,
Israel, Jordan and Palestine
Israel: e-mail: info@foeme.org

Jordan: e-mail: foeme@go.com.jo
Website: www.foeme.org

Laguna de Bay; Philippines



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

A partnership of:



Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands
e-mail: wetlands@psdn.org.ph
Websites: www.psdn.org.ph/wetlands or
www.psdn.org.ph/clear



Laguna Lake Development Authority
e-mail: llda@denr.gov.ph
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