



Annual Report 2007/2008

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**“Vision without action is merely a dream,
action without vision just passes the time,
vision with action can change the world”.**

Nelson Mandela

Preface

Living Lakes – 10 Years of Engagement for Lakes and Wetlands

A centenary birthday and a long list of achievements are both good reasons for celebrating. In June 1998, 10 years ago, Global Nature Fund launched the international lakes network, Living Lakes. Since then, 49 lakes and wetlands have joined the four founding members Lake Constance, Lake Biwa, Mono Lake and St. Lucia Lake and the network has grown to more than 60 globally distributed partner organisations.

Over 50 different projects, all involved in the protection of water and lakes have been implemented over the past 10 years, resulting in the conservation of habitats for numerous animal and plant species. Amongst these were fascinating projects involved in species conservation such as the Irrawaddy Dolphin project, the solar lamps project in Kenya, the protection of the mangroves in Sri Lanka or the 'Trees for Life' project in South Africa. Irrespective of project, the experts from the regional Living Lakes partners performed exceptional work for the protection of biological diversity and our natural resources.

In spite of all the efforts and achievements of our Living Lakes partners, there still are many problems and tasks that need to be solved. Climate change is threatening sensitive hydrological ecosystems. Especially in countries with large species diversity, such as Indonesia or Brazil, these natural habitats are declining at a frightening rate, having to yield to soy and palm oil fields. Climate change is proof that this unfortunate development should be a concern for all of us. The burning rainforest in Brazil is representative for a global problem which will provide us and our children with existential challenges in the years and decades to come.

Already in 1992 1,700 of the leading scientist published warnings due to their findings that we were and still are on a collisions course causing irreparable damage to the natural environment. Despite these gloomy prognoses, hope still exists.

„Solutions for the most important challenges in environmental protection are available, reachable and affordable, especially when it is in relation to the expected economic growth and the consequences of doing nothing,” said OECD- general secretary Angel Gurría in the spring of 2008 at a press conference.

Each achievement, whether small or big, give us hope and courage, since these show us the positive changes that are possible when combining visions with concrete actions. Nelson Mandela said: ‘Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world.’

It is always up to us humans. We must not come to terms with the situation that already every fourth mammal, every third amphibian and 70 percent of all plant species are threatened by extinction. Additionally, nearly one quarter of the world population has no access to safe drinking water. Many readers of this annual report have supported the GNF for several years now.

For this we want to thank you most sincerely. For those readers who are still hesitating, we would like to encourage them to request more information or through a personal conversation to gain more insight into our work. Come to terms with the ever continuing destruction of our natural living conditions and help us to preserve our world in the years to come – not more, but no less either!

Yours sincerely



Marion Hammerl
President



Udo Gattenlöhner
Executive Director



Introduction to the Global Nature Fund

Introduction to the Global Nature Fund

Goals

The Global Nature Fund (GNF) is an international foundation for nature and the environment, which was founded in 1998 by individuals strongly committed to pursuing environmental targets and conservation objectives worldwide. The foundation is governmentally independent and pursues exclusively charitable goals for the promotion of nature and landscape conservation, animal protection, education and national education, as well as youth welfare. The main office is in Radolfzell at Lake Constance, a branch office is in Bonn. An employee of the German Environmental Aid e.V. (Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V.) ensures representation of GNF in Berlin.

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 Senate Office for Justice in Berlin approved the foundation on 29 April 1998.

On 31 December 2007, the foundation funds added up to € 417,638.04. 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 every four years by the federal committee of the German Environmental Aid e.V. and leads and administrates the foundation according to the charter. The experience

of the Steering Committee members in the areas of conservation is of high importance and very helpful to the work of the Global Nature Fund.

The Steering Committee consists of the following members:



Marion Hammerl
(President),
Orsingen, Germany



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



Ranveig Eckhoff,
Berlin, Germany



Dr. Hendrik Hoeck,
Kreuzlingen, Switzerland



Jörg Dürr-Pucher,
Radolfzell, Germany

The **Founding Council** monitors the foundation and with it the Steering Committee. The Founding Council consists of the founding members and donors.

The Founders Council currently consists of:

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

Karla Bauer, (Murnau, Germany) at her own request, is a passive member of the Founders Committee. Further donors are Dr. Renate Gehring and the A. Ziemann GmbH. These donors have abstained from their right to vote in the Founders Committee. Renate Keith has made a donation to the Global Nature Fund by means of a legacy. The Province of Perugia in Italy and member of the Living Lakes network currently considers the possibility of a donation to the assets of the foundation.

A **curatorship** as scientific advisory board to the Steering Committee was formed according to § 9 of the constitution. The Scientific Advisory Board is made up of the following members:

- Roger de Freitas
London, United Kingdom
- Prof. Dr. Manfred Niekisch
Frankfurt, Germany
- Mike Ounsted
Wageningen, The Netherlands
- Dr. Antonio Gómez Reyna
Guadalajara, Mexico.
- Dr. Tillmann Stotteler
Friedrichshafen, Germany
- Prof. Dr. Michael Succow
Greifswald, Germany
- James Strock,
Scottsdale, Arizona, USA

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 Pressestellen
- Deutscher Fundraising Verband
- Klima-Allianz Deutschland

Obituary for Gerhard Thielcke

Prof. Gerhard Thielcke, a great personality in the protection of the environment and one of the co-founders of the Global Nature Fund is dead. Surprising - a terrible accident.... the sort of news that one first can not believe. There are not many people like him: intelligent, far-sighted, persistent, full of ideas and with inexhaustible energy.

Gerhard Thielcke was born and grew up in Köthen, Saxony-Anhalt. After completing an apprenticeship in gardening, he went on to study zoology at the University of Freiburg and Tübingen. In 1970 he became a private lecturer at the University of Constance where he was also awarded a professorship in 1985. From 1962 to 1991 he held a position as a research associate at the ornithological station Radolfzell, the Max-Plank-Institute for behavioural physiology. Here he worked in both basic and applied research in the field of environmental protection. Throughout his professional life, Gerhard Thielcke founded and led many environmental organisations, the more recent ones also being the larger. In 1973 Thielcke founded the BUND land- association, then in 1975 the BUND federal-association which he chaired until 1983. In addition, he remained chairman of the land-association of Baden-Württemberg for 25 years. In 1978 he started Germany's first nation wide environmental protection union, called 'Save the Birds'. The book, with the same title, spent months at the top of the German best-seller list. For over 10 years, until 1999, Thielcke chaired the German Environmental

Aid Organisation e. V. which has its headquarters in Radolfzell at Lake Constance. Additionally, the foundation Global Nature Fund and the Living Lakes Network were some of his babies. Gerhard Thielcke was courageous enough to be uncomfortable and stubborn. His short, but to the point letters addressed to development-enthusiastic politicians and mayors with the aim of pouring salt in their wounds, became legendary. And this, in a time where environmental protection did not have the same place in society as it does today. These letters were then, as important as they are now. His reservoir of ideas for projects, activities and protected areas seemed endless. Even at the age of 76, he was still one of the most creative people in this field. For many years he supported GNF first as their president and for the last couple of years as honorary president: always actively contributing, critically enquiring or presenting well-thought through advice. Gerhard Thielcke was not only an exceptional protector of the environment, but he was also a wonderful person and a good friend – he had a great sense of humor and an infectious optimism. A person who was always there for you and who was also always very encouraging. One of his slogans stated: „Those with intelligence choose the strategy that leads them forward and impact where the journey leads.“ He will continue to be with us in our thoughts and we will often ask ourselves what his words would have been. The large, as well as the small success stories in environment and lake protection will keep his memory alive; we will do our utmost to keep up the work in the spirit of Gerhard Thielcke.

Gerhard Thielcke and Aitken Clark at an excursion in Spain.





Partnerseen

- 1. Columbia River Wetlands; Canada
- 2. Mono Lake; USA
- 3. Lake Chapala; Mexico
- 4. Laguna Fúquene; Colombia
- 5. Lake Titicaca; Bolivia and Peru
- 6. Pantanal; Brazil, Bolivia und 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 Peipsi; Russia
- 15. Lake Võrtsjärv; Estonia
- 16. Nestos Lakes und Lagoons; Greece
- 17. Lake Paliastomi; Georgia
- 18. Lake Uluabat; Turkey
- 19. Lake Viktoria; Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda
- 20. Lake St. Lucia; South Africa
- 21. Dead Sea; Israel, Jordan and Palestine
- 22. Tengiz SLake; Kazakhstan
- 23. Lakes Maduganga and Madampe; Sri Lanka
- 24. Lake Bolgoda; Sri Lanka
- 25. Lake Baikal; Russia
- 26. Lake Poyang; China
- 27. Lake Biwa; Japan
- 28. Laguna de Bay; Philippines
- 29. Mahakam Lakes; Indonesia
- 1. Honorary: Wostok; Antarktica

Assoziierte Partnerseen

- 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; Mallorca, Spain
- 9. Lake Orta; Italy
- 10. Lago Maggiore; Italy
- 11. Lake Garda; Italy
- 12. Lake Bolsena; Italy
- 13. Lake Piediluco; Italy
- 14. Lake Vico; Italy
- 15. Labanoras Regional Park; Lithuania
- 16. Lake Sapanca; Turkey
- 17. Lake Issyk-Kul; Kyrgyzstan
- 18. LakeUvs; Mongolia
- 19. Lake Wular; India
- 20. Lake Pulicat; India
- 21. Lake Taal; Philippines
- 22. Lake Sampaloc; Philippines
- 23. Wilson Inlet; Australia

Living 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. It 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 ecosystem. The issue of protecting global waters becomes ever more important, especially with the ever increasing 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 furthers the practical implementation of environmental projects. Forums for such purposes are given with the regularly occurring international conferences and workshops. The Living Lakes Network has grown continually since its foundation in 1998, with numerous additional lakes applying every year. It currently consists of 28 partner lakes, 24 associate lakes and one honorary member.

From the start of the network it was intended to admit only one lake per country to the network to ensure global repartition of the partner lakes and prevent e.g. the preponderance of European lakes. However, to provide lakes of countries, which are already members in the network the possibility to take part in the network, the associate membership was introduced in 2003. Also organisations that do not meet all conditions for a full membership may become associate members. They may benefit from all advantages of the network but have no right to vote in the democratic network's decision-making process. The advantage for the network is obvious if e.g. the associate partners are active and politically agile institutions working innovatively in the fields of management and protection of lakes and wetlands, if they are well-known or have a good reputation and, of course, they increase the number of international contacts and supporters.

The past years have shown that associate partners in the Living Lakes network are extremely active and have considerably contributed to the realisation of effective model projects. It has proved very successful to admit new lakes as associate members and later on as full members in case of successful collaboration.

Some participants of the „Sport and Nature“ Conference at Lake Trasimeno in June 2007.



3

Events and Activities

Events and Activities

During 2007 the GNF took part, as organiser or participant, in the following events:

4.-7. January

Environmental Protection Days Radolfzell

22. March

**Regional Commission's symposium on water
in Tübingen Project meeting Lithuania (DBU
Project Eastern Europe Network)**

17. -19. April

EU Eco Asia Workshop in Jakarta

23.- 26. April

**Post Tsunami Living Lakes-Conference in
Sri Lanka**

13.-15. May

**Fundraising Workshop at Lake Balaton in
Hungary**

21.- 26. May

**Living Lakes eastern Europe training course at
Lake Constance**

28. -30. May

**Project meeting Lithuania Living Lakes eastern
Europe**

15.-16. June

Nature & Sports Conference in Italy

23. June

YouPEC Conference in Berlin

26. July-4. August

28. August-14. September

**Nature Summer Camps in Estonia und South
Africa**

7. -8. September

Intelligent Energy Europe Workshop in Italy

14.-16. September

**Focus Nature - International Days of Bird-
watching**

13.-15. September

Living Lakes Friends at Lake Constance

18. October

TELI Forum in Stuttgart

22.-23. October

**International Strategy Meeting of Environmental
Organisations active in Lake and Wetland
Projects in Friedrichshafen**

29. -31. October

International World Lakes Conference in India

12.-13. November

Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) preconference in Lisbon

14.-16. November

Climate-Workshop at Lake Balaton in Hungary

27. November

**UNESCO Award „UN-World Decade Project“ in
Stuttgart**

Mangrove Conference

Even prior to the tsunami-catastrophe in December 2004, three of Sri Lanka's Mangrove regions were partners in the Living Lakes Network. Thus, it was a matter of course that after the flood wave struck; GNF was immediately at hand to be of assistance to local population and the partner organisations on the ground. The project "Mangrove Restoration and Reestablishment of Sri Lankan Livelihoods" concentrates on the protection of the mangrove forests that have a natural protective function against coastal erosion, flooding, tidal waves and storms. This project is coordinated and supervised by the partner organisations Nagenahiru Foundation and EMACE Foundation of Sri Lanka.

The experiences of this successful project were first presented to a broad audience in line with the "Post-Tsunami Living Lakes Conference" in April 2007 in Sri Lanka. Over 100 participants from 10 different countries, including Indonesia, India, Germany and Spain, used this opportunity. The conference was opened by Peter Maher from the EU-Commission in Sri Lanka and Patalee Champica Ranawaka, Sri Lanka's environmental minister. Both speakers highlighted the importance and the extremely urgent and necessary protection of the country's threatened mangrove ecosystems. The conference provided a valuable platform for discussions and exchange of experiences between global institutions. The successful outcome of the EU funded project in Sri Lanka proves that donor money really can reach the effected people and can simultaneously serve environmental and nature protection. Since April 2006 nearly 100.000 seedlings have been cultivated in over 20 nurseries. Subsequently these were then planted in chosen project areas. The restoration project enabled local inhabitants to take part in the programme, thus, allowing them to broaden their income opportunities.

Sports & Nature Conference at Lake Trasimeno

The first Living Lakes 'Sport & Nature' Conference took place at Lake Trasimeno in Italy from the 16-17 June 2007. Nearly 100 participants from throughout Europe attended the event which was designed to promote environment- and nature-compatible sporting activities in lake regions. In line with this conference, the founding of the Italian Living Lakes network 'Living Lakes Italia' was announced. The Italian Network, co-ordinated by the partners of GNF at Lake Trasimeno, should improve collaboration work for the protection of lakes in Italia. The members' goal is to plan environment and nature protection projects and activities. In addition to Lake Trasimeno, Lake Boolean, Garda, Piediluco and Maggiore also belong to the network. In 2008 two further lakes, namely Lake Orta and Vico, joined the network.

Focus Nature and an Extraordinary Swimmer

Focus Nature, the International Days of Bird Watching and Nature Observation took place for the first time on 14-16 September 2007 in Radolfzell at Lake Constance. The event was aimed at people who enjoy watching or photographing nature with the plan to establish it permanently in the German speaking region. The centre point of Focus Nature was a fair with the theme "Discover and Experience Nature."

Exhibitors from the optics, outdoor activities and tourism sectors displayed and presented their variety of products. Nature lovers had the opportunity to test and compare binoculars and spotting scopes by viewing the shore, lake and the volcanic landscape

of the neighbouring Hegau. Information was readily available from experts. Focus Nature is organised by the Bodensee-Stiftung (Lake Constance Foundation) and Deutsche Umwelthilfe (German Environmental Aid) as well as other local environmental organisations. Additionally the Global Nature Fund considerably contributed to the successful event with an information booth and a children's programme.

One of the highlights of the fair was the arrival of the Spanish swimmer Carlos Peña who reached the Radolfzell shore of Lake Constance on the third day of his crossing of Lake Constance. His intention with the spectacular swimming actions is to draw attention to the necessary protection of lakes and rivers.

During Focus Nature he covered a total distance of 63 km. Starting in Lindau via Friedrichshafen and finishing in Constance, he was - within three days - always accompanied by a German rescue team. The fair visitors gave him a warm welcome after they had watched him arriving with the newest binoculars and spotting scopes. GNF President Marion Hammerl and Executive Director Udo Gattenlöchner officially greeted Mr Peña on the last day of the fair.

In 2004 Carlos Peña, as a sign of protest against lake contamination, crossed Lake Chapala in Mexico. Other Living Lakes followed, such as Lake Balaton in Hungary, Mar Chiquita in Argentine and in the scope of the Nature und Sport Conference, Lake Trasimeno in Italy.

Carlos Peña intends to continue his actions and refer to the importance of protecting lakes and wetlands and the preservation of peace worldwide. Future projects include the Dead Sea and the holy Nam Co Lake in Tibet.

The young fair visitors participated excitedly in the Children's program.



Carlos Peña is greeted by the GNF after his swimming marathon.



Meeting of the Living Lakes Friends at Lake Constance

From 13-15 September 2007 donators and supporters of Living Lakes could convince themselves for the third time of the work of the Global Nature Fund and other nature organisations. For this meeting an instructive excursion to the nature reserve Mettnau was organised and competently guided on the first day. In the reserve remains of alluvial forests and Streuwiesen (typical meadow found in wetland regions in southern Germany and are harvested for bedding in animal stalls) can be found. Also many water fowl and songbirds such as the Nightingale and the Golden Oriole breed and rest in the bird sanctuary. On the second day, the group visited the bio-energy village Mauendorf in the volcanic Hegau landscape. In Mauenheim a biogas plant, a wood chip power station and a solar plant generate a substantial part of the required electricity and heat. A visit to the Focus Nature Fair at the shore of Lake Constance and a boat ride with the solar ferry Helio were two other interesting events of this exciting day ending off with a lively discussion and antipasti of regional origin. On Saturday, before their return journey, some of the guests went to Lake Constance to watch some bird species from the northern shore such as Ruddy Shelduck, Gadwell, Tufted Duck, Eurasian Pochard, Red-crested Pochard, Great Crested Grebe, Little Grebe, Great White Egret and Double-crested Cormorant. All visitors valued this extremely varied itinerary and are thinking about returning next year.

International Strategy Meeting

From 22 – 23 October 2007, GNF hosted the first International Strategy Meeting in Friedrichshafen. It was targeted at environmental organisations ac-

Living Lakes Friends on the HELIO solar ferry.



tive in the field of lakes and wetland regions with the aim of coordinating strategies and approaches. Furthermore, action domains that needed combined efforts were to be identified, so that the common goals could be achieved. In addition to GNF and the Lake Constance Foundation (Bodenseestiftung), other participants included the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Bank, RAMSAR, the International Lake Environment Committee (ILEC), the European Water Partnership (EWP), the United Nations Environmental Programme/Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS, also known as „Bonner Convention“) and Living Lakes Partner from Great Britain, Spain and Hungary. Areas of collaboration were identified and especially the reaction to climate change was viewed by all participants as an important factor. Feedback from the participants was extremely positive, resulting in the planning of a follow-up workshop at Lake Geneva for 2008. The participants' feedback was positive and a follow-up workshop is being planned for 2008 at Lake Geneva. Through this, the event is well on its way to becoming a permanent institution in the international lake protection community with changing hosts and yearly events.

Seminar “Financing Environmental Projects”

In order to realise innovative environmental protection projects, environmental organisations depend on financial help from public institutions such as Ministries or the European Union. From 13 to 15 of May 2007 a group of over 30 members of the Living Lakes partner organisations met at Lake Balaton at the invitation of the Living Lakes partner “Lakes Balaton Development Coordination Agency”. They met to discuss financing opportunities and the development of joint projects for lake protection. Experienced contributors spoke of projects funded by the World Bank, the United Nations and the EU. The participants were split into working groups and developed various new cooperation projects with the focus on biodiversity, climate and environmental education. The Living Lakes Climate Protection Program is a result of this workshop. In order to confront the challenges of climate change and realise CO₂ reduction initiatives, partners from Brazil, South Africa and China created a climate protection program. This program was submitted to EU development programs and larger organisations by the GNF. Final decisions about financial assistance have not been made. The program will be expanded following a successful first pilot phase.

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". 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. After the Global Nature Fund and the international Living Lakes Network have received the award „Official Decade Project“ for 2008 and 2009, along with having already received it for 2006 and 2007.



Offizielles Projekt
der Weltdekade
2008 / 2009

Nature Summer Camps

To strengthen the exchange between partners from the business sector and the environmental organisations, the Summer Camps were created in 2003. Up to now over 200 staff members and staff relatives of various enterprises have worked on different Living Lakes conservation projects. The activities included reforestation measures and landscape maintenance, environmental education and ecotourism activities.

Landscape management work in the Alam Pedja nature reserve near the two largest lakes in Estonia, Võrtsjärv and Peipsi.



In 2007, the Nature Summer Camps were carried out in cooperation with Deutsche Lufthansa AG, Sika AG and the Ziemann group. Feedback from the participants shows that Nature Summer Camps are an appropriate way to make nature more accessible to the people. As the impulse originates from the enterprise itself, the camps contribute in reinforcing the solidarity and identification with the company.

According to the principle 'Learning by Doing' this year's participation in conservation projects in Estonia and South Africa offered the possibility of joyful practical environmental work and direct contact with nature. The exceptional adventure lasted two to four weeks. The engaged young mastered the challenges far away from home and contributed their experience and knowledge to the project. The Summer Camps also provided an intensive exchange with the local people, thus promoting intercultural competence. The young volunteers got to know and came to appreciate unknown cultures and people in an extraordinary way. Excursions to the project areas and their surroundings gave an idea of the unique habitats and provided an overall view of the Global Nature Fund's and its local partners' the project work.

Participants help rangers with the counting of endangered species in the uMkhuze Reserve in South Africa.



5

Supported Projects

Kids for the Dolphins

Dolphins attract and are fascinating to many people, especially children. These elegant creatures are also called “ambassadors of the sea”, yet thousands of animals perish each year through human impacts.

The years 2007 and 2008 were declared "Year of the Dolphin" by the UN Environment Programme. Setting the scene: the Global Nature Fund together with the support of the Ursula Merz Foundation and in cooperation with the Indonesian partner organisation Yayasan Konservasi RAS, developed an environmental education programme for schools describing and analysing the Irrawaddy dolphin, its habitat, as well as its importance in a globalised world. These training measures complement the dolphin protection activities and are described in detail in the chapter "Supported projects".

In Indonesia in 2007, environmental education measures were successfully implemented in 23 schools located in 13 different villages. The measures included such things as a drawing competition to highlight the need for protection of dolphins and their habitats.

According to YK RASI experts, in these relatively isolated schools the issue of dolphin protection generated wide interest despite the lack of previous environmental protection education. Borneo is one of the regions on earth where deforestation, palm oil plantations and mining are changing the makeup of the land at a frightening pace. So that the subject is not restricted to the Mahakam area of Borneo, an educational unit has been prepared for German schools about the endangerment and need of protection of the Irrawaddy Dolphin.

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 Brazil, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Spain, and Sri Lanka could be implemented.

Mahakam Wetlands, Indonesia

In 2007, the Indonesian organisation RASI (Rare Aquatic Species of Indonesia) continued its successful work that was started with a fund from GNF in 2006. Its objective is to preserve the Mahakam wetland, east of Kalimantan (Borneo) and its unique biodiversity, represented by the locally called Pe-sut, the extremely endangered Irrawaddy freshwater dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*), of which only about 70-90 individuals remain. The threats to the ecosystem and thus to the dolphins and the activities of fishermen are manifold, including sedimentation, illegal logging and heavy water traffic. Fishermen themselves regard the water pollution through coal cleaning waste and transport and illegal, over-exploiting fishing techniques as the major problem.

Our project partner RASI developed a protection program which focuses on the markation of new proected areas in the Mahakam wetlands. In order to achieve this, expansive data collection in the project area about the dolphins and their development were necessary. Also the inhabitants of the area along with the provincial government and other officials had

The students were easily enthused by the Irrawaddy dolphin.



The dolphin information centre of our partner organisation RASI.



to be convinced of the necessity and feasibility of the protection project. In June 2006, the provincial government agreed to erect the first protection zone for fresh water dolphins and other extremely endangered species in the Muara Pahu area in the Middle Mahakam region. The accompanying measures for environmental education (necessity and use of a protected area, information about the protected and endangered species) were accomplished by RASI and have already helped to better the populations' acceptance of environmental protection.

In 2006 RASI conducted personal interviews with fishermen in order to understand their needs and goals. With this base knowledge, many meetings were organised in 2007 in the villages and communities surrounding the protected areas, with the government of West Kutai, the ministry for mining and environment and with affected businesses. The rules and limitations that would occur because of the protected area were explained and discussed. All participants agreed on the markation of a "community protected dolphin protection area". This lies in the core zone of the dolphin habitat and spans 70 kilometres of the river. Through this fishing grounds that serve as food sources for the Irrawaddy Dolphin will also be protected. The fishermen also profit from the protection of the indigenous fish species.

Only if the Mahakam wetlands are protected, it will be possible to see the Irrawaddy Dolphin in the future.



The mining companies received a new place to transfer coal which is outside the core zone of the nature reserve so that sedimentation, noise pollution and other environmental hazards do not directly harm the habitat of the Irrawaddy Dolphin. RASI's demand that the negative effects of industry on the biodiversity of the area be minimised, have been taken up by all communities. The government expects organisations to hand over environmental reports on their companies. The economic practices of the region (foresting, coal mining, palm oil plantations, industrial fishery etc.) should be generally curtailed and zones that are of great environmental importance like rain forests, swamps, wetlands and shore regions should be protected. Environmentally harmful economic practices are to be banned in these areas. It remains to be seen if the government will agree to these demands.

Around the core zone of the dolphin protection area signs are being put up to make people aware that they are in an environmental protection area along with signs regulating the allowed speed on the affected river portions. The official establishment of the biological reserve will take place mid 2008. The government of West-Kutai intends to enlarge the protection activities onto 45 km of inflows in the Mahakam so that, in total, a length of 115 km of river will be protected. RASI has organised the fishermen of the region into cooperatives so that access to government loans for sustainable aquacultures will become easier. 202 fishermen that want to switch to sustainable fishing have come together in around 10 cooperatives. This is an important contribution for the protection of the dolphins because the dolphins are constantly being caught in legal and illegal fishing nets or being killed by electric fishing. Through the introduction of sustainable fishing, the continuing existence of the local fishing communities in the protected area along with the 3 large lakes in the Middle Mahakam Region is guaranteed in the long term. RASI carried out two further studies between September and November 2007 in order to gather information on the number of Irrawaddy Dolphins. The good news is that multiple dolphin calves were spotted and the death rate was below the previous 4 dolphins per year. Further areas that are important for dolphins are being identified so that they can be integrated into the second planned protected area in Central Kutai. The project is being continued with this focus.

The measures in 2007 were supported by the GNF with 28.692 € from the Ursula Merz Foundation.

Lake Baikal, Russia

At the deepest and biggest lake of the world two projects of the Living Lakes partner Club Firn were supported in 2007. The Ehrmann Foundation contributed € 21,000 for a project at the third largest tributary of the lake, the Barguzin River, one of the most remarkable sites at Lake Baikal regarding flora and fauna and meandering from the east through a swampy landscape into the lake. The challenges at the river are economic underdevelopment and so far little awareness for environmental aspects. These challenges were quantified in sociological surveys and discussed in a roundtable meeting with project directors, stakeholders and local governments which resulted in a common agreement to actively cooperate and support each other in future and tackle important tasks like coordination in natural resource protection, a contact database, conducting seminars and attracting youth.

The next step was to involve youth in environmental activities that at the same time shall help to establish eco-friendly economic activities. 22 young persons from different communities were selected for a working camp for improving infrastructure for eco-friendly tourism and an educational seminar in July on "Environmental Leadership and Traditional Natural Resource Use". One of the results of the seminar was a concept for a festival on "culture and environment" involving the local communities. This festival with 150 participants was held in November. It included aspects of culture and local handicrafts, both linked with environmental aspects and several awards took place. The festival gave an essential contribution to foster traditional nature-use practices as basis for environmental friendly tourism. The participants of the seminar are supposed to be leaders of green initiatives. Further educational seminars follow to teach business skills and how to integrate cultural and ethnic traditions in the development of

sustainable tourist products. The project has gained high attention through several TV and Radio broadcasts.

The second project was the continuation of the "Nerpa in Focus" activities that GNF continued to sponsor in 2007 with € 12,000 partly from funds from the German Ethikbank. The Nerpa or Baikal Seal (*Phoca sibirica*) is one of the world's two seals only living in drinking water. Based on the Nerpa Information Centre in Ust-Barguzin on the eastern coast of the Lake, a travelling exhibition was created that is presented at schools in rural areas.

Pupils could win participation in the festival "Nerpa Days" and as top prize an excursion to the Baikal Limnological Museum on the opposite side of the lake. The results of these activities are enhanced awareness among school students as well as local populations in Ulan-Ude and rural areas of Buryatia about the unique Nerpa and the need for its protection.

Another goal of the project is the development of eco-tourism at Lake Baikal. Through various activities, the cooperation of agencies, educational institutions and environmental organisations improved dramatically. In 2006 almost 700,000 people visited Lake Baikal. Ski resorts, hotels, golf courses, water parks and other tourist attractions appear to be profiting from the influx of tourists to the region. Because of this, Lake Baikal is threatened by private investors that want to build entire vacation settlements on the prettiest areas of the lakeshore. Illegal waste dumps, forest fires and untreated sewage are the result of these plans.

This is the reason why the development of sustainable ecotourism is important, so that the lake and the species that live there are protected. FIRN instructs field guides that can then offer environmentally sustainable photography tours to the Baikal Seals.

Attentive Young listeners – the nature protectors of tomorrow.



The activities at the Barguzin River are a good example of the connection between nature and culture.



These Nerpa photography tours have been especially popular with tourists. With this new income opportunities are created for the local population and an alternative to seal hunting is available. The environmentally sustainable concept of these tours excludes the disturbance of the sensitive Baikal Seal. It is important to include various travel businesses in the concept. To this end, FIRN presented its eco-tourism concept in 2008 at the travel pavilion in Hannover, the world's largest alternative travel exhibition.

Maduganga, Madampe und Bolgoda Lake, Sri Lanka

The GNF's Post Tsunami Project can be deemed a success in Sri Lanka. Since the start of the project, 150 fishermen have received new nets, boats or solar lamps which take the place of the environmentally harmful kerosene lamps. In 30 newly constructed tree nurseries around the Madampe, Maduganga and Bolgoda lakes more than 100,000 mangrove trees were grown and planted. In this project the GNF has put an emphasis on catastrophe prevention. Intact mangrove forests and the planting of new mangrove trees ensure the natural protective ring for the people that live in the area. The consequences of tsunamis and climate caused catastrophes are diminished by this protective ring.

The project has been supported with around 700.000 Euros. Supporters are the Serendib Foundation, the Ursula Merz Foundation and Sika. The majority of the money comes from the European Union.

Lake Constance Germany, Austria and Switzerland

The Lake Constance Foundation was given assistance of € 25.000 by the GNF for the project "Managing Urban Europe". The goal of the project is to

The women from the project area in Sri Lanka are visibly happy by the tree nurseries.



strengthen environmental protection on the community level because often environmental concerns are sidelined by economic issues. The demands on the communities are growing and cities and regions are increasingly occupied with their duties and neither time nor money can be spared for volunteer activities. Environmental and sustainability management is seen as an extra burden which is not worth it. A common misconception is that environmental management systems like the European EMAS (Eco Management and Audit Scheme) and ISO14.001 are not appropriate for communal processes. The project focuses on this and seeks to promote the practical use of environmental management in communes.

Five organisations (Union of Baltic Cities, ICLEI, University of Western England, GRID-Ardenal and the Lake Constance Foundation) coordinate this ambitious initiative. 26 cities and communities throughout Europe are involved. The management system developed for this project has five steps:

1. Description and assessment of the current situation
2. Strategic program with goals and concrete actions
3. Creation of a management structure
4. Building of a monitoring system
5. Communication and involvement of all interested parties

The Lake Constance Foundation developed materials for situation analysis and building of the management structure. These materials were published in a virtual training centre for European communities. Four international training courses were carried out as well. In addition to this, the Lake Constance Foundation was intensively involved in the revision of EMAS for communal and regional authorities. Six German communities and cities, Siófok and Balatonfüred in Hungary and Leeds in England were aided

Managing Urban Europe - 24 partner organisations at a training workshop in Lahti, Finland.



by the Lake Constance Foundation in the implementation of the management system.

Part of the GNF grant was being used by the Lake Constance Foundation for the development and marketing of the "Lake Constance Breakfast". The concept for the use of regional products from environmentally friendly production in the breakfast selection of hotels and restaurants was developed together with the German Hotel Association Constance. Through this the environmental burden through tourism and the connected product shipping is lowered and at the same time the regional profile is strengthened and the business cycle is bettered. The successful concept will be transferred to other Living Lakes regions with much tourism.

St. Lucia, South Africa

The Wildlands Conservation Trust in South Africa carried out an exemplary project in 2007. In the KwaZulu-Natal region, a region greatly affected by unemployment and poverty, the Wildlands Conservation Trust offers students, unemployed young people and adults a new perspective on the future with the project "Trees for Life". Over 750 "Tree Entrepreneurs" have already been educated by the Wildlands Conservation Trust. They planted and care for over 75.000 Trees in the Mkhuze forest. Through this measure biodiversity is improved and an important step in the reduction of CO₂ is taken. The first funding of 5.000 Euros was made possible through the "Miles to Help" program of Lufthansa and donors of the GNF. The approach "help in order to help yourself" creates new income opportunities and new social networks. The trees are grown and taken care of by the "Tree Entrepreneurs" and are bought from them by the Wildlands Conservation Trust for one Euro.

The seedlings can also be traded for commodities like rice, bicycles or school uniforms. Bicycles and school uniforms are still of great value here. Without bicycles, the schools are unreachable for students who live far away and attendance without school uniforms is prohibited. The "Tree Entrepreneurs" are organised into "Green Teams" and are in charge of taking care of rural areas. Every team plants between 300 – 1,000 trees per month in public spaces such as schools and clinics. The trees are cared for by the team that plants them for the first 12 months after they are planted in the public spaces to ensure their survival. Regionally foreign plants are removed and garbage is collected and, if possible, recycled. Further wide-ranging planting activity is planned in the Mkhuze River and Ongoye forest for 2008. The people involved in the project are thrilled that through protecting the environment and nature they have the means to take care of themselves.

The „Green Teams“ at work.



„Trees for Life“ provides a better future for children.



Pantanal, Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay

The Pantanal is the largest wetland on earth and was named „Threatened Lake of the Year 2007“ by the GNF. The partner organisation Ecotrópica Foundation was able to raise 57.000 Euros in 2007. Responsible for this grant is the Ursula Merz Foundation, the Swiss company Sika, private donors and the “Miles to Help” program of Lufthansa. The project will continue to be supported by the GNF through monetary support.

Ecotrópica owns a 60.000 hectares large private protected area which was formerly used for animal husbandry. Today the area is a nature reserve and is protected by law. Because of this, Ecotrópica cares for a third of the Pantanal UNESCO World Heritage Site which is home to Jaguars, Anteaters, Macaws, Ocelots, Tapirs, Toucans, Anacondas and hundreds of other mammal, bird, and reptile and fish species. The management, monitoring, and protection of this enormous area have raised the requirements towards Ecotrópica in this extremely isolated region and the management costs have risen considerably. Research, education and political work with decision makers make up Eurotrópica's activities. Sadly in the past years aid money has declined. This financial burden is the reason GNF has increased its monetary support. Only through the incredible commitment of the employees of Ecotrópica was it possible to keep the reserve running. The situation was made worse by forest fires, whose putting out required the most substantial commitment from Ecotrópica.

Looking back, Ecotrópica can congratulate themselves on the successful completion of a difficult year. Along with the environmental protection activities in the Pantanal, the Global Nature Fund worked together with the biologist Angelika Hofer and the photographer Günther Ziesler to create a travelling exhibit. The exhibit was on display for three months for the first time in the Krefeld zoo in November 2007. On eight display boards and through over

30 pictures, the beauty of the natural paradise of the Pantanal is portrayed. Special attention is given in the exhibit is given to the threats to the Pantanal from deforestation and the expansion of the soy and sugar cane production for bio fuels. The exhibit is fully booked into 2009 by zoological gardens. An accompanying quiz along with public lectures and environmental education programs in school complete the program through which the GNF seeks to heighten public awareness about the importance and responsibility humanity has towards the world's largest wetland.

Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan

The GNF supports its partner organisation Natur-schutzbund (NABU) in Kyrgyzstan with the building of a private nature reservation at Lake Issyk-Kul with € 6.000. The Issyk-Kul Lake is the second largest mountain lake in the world. As is common in poor countries, the environmental protection network is heavily underfinanced. This means that the protection of the Saker Falcon, Bearded Vulture, Brown Bear, Marco-Polo Sheep and Snow Leopard from hunters is almost impossible. The increasing destruction of their natural habitat is also very bad for the animals. Although Kyrgyzstan has the largest biosphere reserve in the northern hemisphere, the protected areas are too far apart. One solution is private nature protection areas which create connective paths. A private nature protection area was created around the town of Ananevo on the northern shore of the lake as a pilot project. The endangered marsh and pasture landscape with its precious plant and animal species can be maintained on 85 hectares and the danger for orchids and breeding birds because of drainage and conversion to farmland is alleviated.

Together with the villagers a plan for the regulated grazing and mowing was established. Through this plan, ground nesting birds are almost never bothered, orchids bloom again and reeds are not burned

The battle against fire in the Pantanal was won.



A school class in the nature reserve at Issyk-Kul.

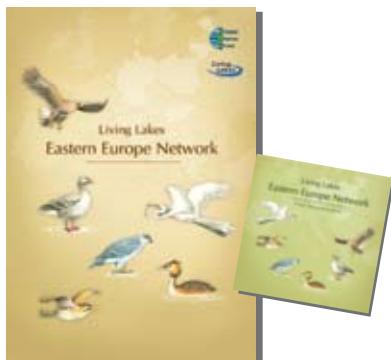


down. The population has shown great interest in the projects concerned with the preservation of the natural treasures of their country. Ecotourism and handicraft offer the project an additional long term economic chance. In order to support ecotourism informational signs were installed and an educational path and an observation platform are being planned. In multiple seminars and excursions school classes from Ananevos discovered the area. Following these positive experiences, a seminar for teachers was conducted at the NABU- Kyrgyzstan environmental education centre. Educational materials and experiences were discussed and exchanged. Through this the impetus for a teacher network occurred and whose first results were an Eco-week in the schools and a network for classes involved in projects.

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", which was started by the German Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU) in 2006, 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 network. The main topics of the Network were sustainable fisheries, sustainable tourism, the management of protected areas and sustainable land use planning/sustainability management on regional and local level.

The conclusion document of the Living Lakes Eastern Europe Network informs on the results of the joint work.



In May 2007, 22 environmental and lake professionals from Estonia, Poland and Hungary visited Lake Constance to participate in a one week training course. During workshops and the many interesting excursions to the nature protection reserve Wollmatinger Ried, the Seeforschungsinstitut Friedrichshafen and the Islands of Mainau and Reichenau, the attendees could gather and exchange experiences regarding sustainable tourism or lake management. The transferability of some projects was discussed, e.g. of the lake shore restoration measures at Lake Constance to Lake Balaton. The visit to an Eco-Camping site proved to be very popular and the received feedback was very positive indeed. Once more it was proven, that direct exchange on site is a very promising way for effective collaboration and for learning from one another.

The **Lake Balaton Development Coordination Agency**'s activity within the network was to foster the long-term sustainable management of the region. Together with the towns of Siófok and Balatonfüred they were working on an Environmental Management System (EMS). The revision of the activities concerning the environment has exposed the critical areas. With this knowledge targets and programmes could be defined. The activities and measures were reviewed regularly using result indicators and adjusted continuously.

The main target of the LBDCA is to achieve the EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) certification. Through this a good example can be set for the municipalities, institutes, and other offices of the region in the implementation of systematic environmental protection.

Further project activities in 2007 took place at Lake Vörtsjärv, where the **Lake Vörtsjärv Foundation** could finish the Lake Visitors Centre including exhibitions and environmental education. A lake museum is part of the Visitor Centre and was established with

The fish exhibit in the visitors centre at Vörtsjärv awakens the curiosity of the visitors.



the help of the municipalities around the lake.

The main task of the centre is to provide training possibilities, advice and information to interested regional groups, visitors, and possible investors/entrepreneurs from outside. Exhibits and seminars about fishing, nature tourism and ecological history complete the program. Since its opening, the centre enjoys a continuous increase in popularity.

Sustainable tourism was as well the major topic at the other Estonian lake of the network, Lake Peipsi, where **Peipsi CTC** concentrated on the development of sustainable tourism schemes and activities such as the elaboration of nature tourism guidelines, compilation of a training programme for tourist guides and entrepreneurs to be used by different nature trainers and for the organisation of the training courses. Moreover a multimedia programme about the area of River Emajõgi that joins Lake Võrtsjärv and Lake Peipsi was published.

At the Polish **Milicz Ponds**, the objective of the project was to design spatial arrangements in tourism that are not harmful to nature. A large part of work consisted in the gathering and analysis of broad data on biological parameters. On this basis, a visitor zoning concept was elaborated. The advantages for the local population of such a zoning concept could successfully be communicated to local stakeholders.

Detailed information and current publications and brochures can be found at:
www.globalnature.org/netzwerk-osteuropa.

Participants of the DBU project in the „Wollmatinger Ried“ nature reserve at Lake Constance.



Conservation of Cultural Landscapes

Extremadura, Spain

In the southwest of Spain lies the Extremadura; a landscape characterised by stone and cork oak trees. These “Dehesas” offer natural grazing land and habitats for the wild animals of the Extremadura. Rare species like cranes, black storks, imperial eagles, Eurasian black vultures and eagle owls can be observed in large numbers here. Yet despite the thin settlement of the Extremadura, these animals require protection. The conservation of the traditional agriculture along with the sustainable development of the region are the tasks of the Living Lakes partner organisation “Fundación Global Nature España”. Fundación Global Nature has its headquarters in Madrid and operates an environmental protection centre in Toreón el Rubio. In 2007 the Fundación received a grant of 3.000 Euros from the GNF.

In 2007, the Fundación developed and engaged in a wide range of environmental education offerings. Young people from all over Europe along with the regional population meet in the nature protection centre “La Dehesa” for international seminars, exchange programs, and volunteer work. In 2004 the Fundación started their ongoing campaign “Battle the Fire.” For the campaign 2.000 comics, 500 posters and a computer game about the prevention of forest fires were produced and distributed in 2007. Almost 1.000 students in 10 communities were reached by this campaign. Another focal point in 2007 was the “Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future” project. Through different activities the inhabitants of the region are sensitized towards sustainable energy use.

The Fundación has been coordinating nature and species protection programs in the Extremadura. The greatest strength of the Spanish organisation lies

The Extremadura with lavender in blossom.



in the relaying of practical information about nature and species protection and private natural protection measures. A successful project was the establishment of a network of private nature reserves. In this project the owners of "Fincas" or small farms commit themselves to environmentally friendly production and nature protection measures. The Fundación helps to raise the number of animals and plants and works with the owners to create individual work plans for the sustainable use of the Fincas. A Fundación supported program which developed measures for the protection of the Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) has sadly not been approved by the government of the Extremadura. Because of this in 2007 and 2008 only protection measures that occurred on the private Fincas could be carried out. However it is extremely necessary to conserve further habitats in order to better the conditions of the lynx in Spain.

Mallorca and the Balearic Islands, Spain

Mallorca's largest environmental organisation GOB (Grup Balar d'Ornitologia I Defensa de la Naturalesa) has been fighting for many years for the protection of the one of a kind nature of the Balearic Islands. Especially on Mallorca with its massive amount of tourism it is important to protect the traditional cultural landscape and its special nature from complete destruction. GOB has offices in Palma de Mallorca, Menorca and Ibiza. The former monastery is the information and education centre of the GOB. There, on an area of 75 hectares, indigenous trees and bushes are planted. The monastery is to be rebuilt into a hostel for hikers. GOB received a 10.000 Euro grant from the GNF in 2007.

In Mallorca shady land and building speculations and illegal designation of building areas is part of daily life. After years of protest and many scandals, that in part were discovered by the GOB, finally suc-

cesses can be seen. In 2007 85 million Euros worth of property was confiscated. Legal proceedings were started against the former mayor of Andratx and the illegally built apartments in the environmental protection area by port Andratx are being torn down. In May 2008 the government ordered the immediate stop of building in ecologically precious areas that were in danger of being destroyed (in total 1.200 hectares). However much remains to be done in order to conserve the remaining beauty of Mallorca.

For the protection of the one of a kind bird life on Mallorca, GOB takes care of the Red Kite which are threatened by poisoned bait and the Eleonora Falcon which lives on Dragonera Island. To combat the poisoned bait, specially trained dogs are used. Near Alaro, the GOB was able to mark out a 10 Hectares large area protected from hunters. Further hunter free zones on the private Fincas will be established. In 2007 multiple Eleonora Falcons were equipped with satellite tracking devices in order to track and better understand their flight paths. The mitigation of dangerous electric lines is another important step. By mandate of the Balearic government the GOB is also in charge of the tagging of migratory birds. The birds are tagged in the spring and fall in the wetlands of Albufera and Albuferta and also on the Dragonera and Cabrera islands.

Protection of the Whales and Dolphins in the Mediterranean

The GOB campaign for the protection of whales and dolphins in the waters of the Balearic Islands has been in action since 2006/2007. Goal of the project is the gathering of extensive information about the whales and dolphins of the Mediterranean so that new protection areas can be marked out. Many yacht and sail boat owners were thrilled to help in the protection of the marine mammals and take part in the

The GOB initiated reforestation efforts protect Mallorca's natural world.



A Red Kite with a tracking device from the GOB.



counting of whales and dolphins so that more can be learned about their migration patterns. Extensive designation tables in Spanish, English and German aid sailors in the identification process. On the German internet site of the GOB there is further information about Mediterranean whales and dolphins and a questionnaire for the boat owners. The German sailing association and a yachting magazine reported intensively about the action. In 2008 the campaign was enlarged to include the marine national park "Cabrera". First results show that a group of large animals can be found near Dragonera Island. We hope that a marine protection area can be established here soon. The situation of the marine turtles and tuna is especially dramatic. The decrease in the number of turtles leads to an increase in the jelly fish plague on the coasts of Mallorca. The GOB exercised political pressure in this instance and managed to have a fishing free zone created on the Balearic Islands. Hope has come from the latest news that reached us shortly before the printing of this yearly report: in the marine national park a young monk seal was sighted in one of the underwater caves. This seal species is native to the Mediterranean, extremely endangered and had not been seen in Mallorca for many years previously.

Protection of Floodplain Forests on the Elbe, Germany

The largest connected floodplain forests of middle Europe with a bountiful diversity of plants and animals can be found on the Elbe. In the winter it is an important resting and winter rest place for rare bird species from the north of Europe. Near Salzwedel in Sachsen-Anhalt the environment on both sides of the former inner German border has great structural biodiversity. Besides "Bruchwälder" (Forests on soils with little fluctuating but high groundwater level) other habitats can be found like wet meadows, fallow land,

fens as well as standing and flowing waters. Crane, Fish eagle, Black stork, Wood cock, Grass snake, Otter and Moor frog live here. Floodplain forests and swampy forests have been strongly reduced in the past decades. These forests are heavily decimated by clear cutting, transformation to agricultural land, construction of settlements and roads, straightening and dyking of the river and drainage. Especially in fen forests near springs at the rim of the Elbe valley the water level is lowered through drainage channels. The natural treasures and the one of a kind beauty of the region, along with the turf and wood which are important for climate change because of their CO₂-storing capabilities are being continually lost. Especially in fen forests near springs at the rim of the Elbe valley the water level is lowered through drainage channels

The goal of the project is the resuscitation of floodplain and swamp forests at selected areas on the Elbe. In the municipal forest of Salzwedel, a 15 ha Bruchwald that had been crossed by deep channels in the past, the channels were dammed up to restore the wet soil. To support the restoration of the forest, initial plantation of Common Oak, Elm, Ash, Blakthorn and Hawthorne were carried out as the potential for a natural regeneration was low at the project's beginning. All work was done manually to reduce impact on landscape as far as possible. Along with the creation of a new habitat, the work resulted in the raising of the ground water level which is of great importance to the local drinking water. The GNF supported this project of the Deutsche Umwelthilfe with a 25.000 Euro grant from Toyota.

More information to the conservation of cultural landscapes can be found in the GNF's Annual Report „Conservation of Cultural Landscapes 2007/08.“

Striped dolphins can be observed in the Balearic Sea.



The last remaining floodplain forests on the Elbe must be protected.



6

Public Relation Work

Public Relation Work

Global Nature Fund has intensified its PR work over the last few 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 press reviews. Four editions of the GNF newsletter are published annually in German and English. This "GNF-Newsletter" informs readers about 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.

Threatened Lake of the Year 2007- Pantanal

In light of the worldwide day of the Wetlands on February 2, the GNF named the South American Pantanal wetland the "Threatened Lake of 2007." This, the world's largest wetland, located in Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia is also called the "South American Garden of Eden." The landscape is characterised by innumerable lakes and rivers which are found between rain forests, forests and savannas. The Paraguay, Cuiabá and Taquari rivers make up the main arteries of the flooding area. 665 different bird, 265 fish and 123 mammal and over 1.700 plant species were counted by conservationists in the Pantanal.

The „South American Garden of Eden“ – the Pantanal – truly deserves its name.



The most famous inhabitants of the Pantanal are Jaguars, *Yacare Caimans*, *Jabiru-Stork* and the *Hyacinth Macaw*.

The paradise is being destroyed at a dramatic rate. Wide ranging deforestation, monocultures, intensive soy farming and animal husbandry along with gold and diamond mines displace the unique tropical natural landscape. The situation is becoming even worse through the building of ethanol factories. The hunger of industrialised countries for energy has caused the Brazilian government to issue evermore permits for soy and sugar cane plantations. Because of this more and more land and untreated waste water infiltrates the widely branched river system. Conservationists worry that by 2050 the world's largest wetland could have completely disappeared. The development of the region is also a catastrophe for small farmers because they can not compete with international corporations and plantation owners who engage in industrialised soy and sugarcane production. On top of these problems is added the fact that the total energy balance of this energy intensive production on former tropical forests is negative and leads to the further heating of our climate.

Media Work

Press Voices

Press releases like *Pantanal in South America is the „Threatened Lake of the Year 2007“*, *Fokus Natur – International Days of Bird- and Nature watching*, *Active for the Protection of Whales and Dolphins in the Mediterranean*, *Planned Channel at the Dead Sea*, *Thank you Gerhard Thielcke* or *Living Lakes Continues to be an Official Project of the UN-Decade* informed the public about the activities of the Living Lakes organisations. The press work of GNF was reflected in different media like:

A Caiman with a small visitor in the Pantanal.



natur+kosmos 01/2007 Worldwide aid for disaster regions [...]

Global Nature Fund: The environmental protection organisation has, since 2002, worked together with two local partner organisations from the Living Lakes Network. Since the disaster they help to care for around 500 families from poor communities in Sri Lanka. [...]

Hamburger Abendblatt: 2.02.07 The largest lake and swamp environment of the world, the Pantanal in South America, could have dried out by the middle of the century. This warning comes from the Global Nature Fund in Radolfzell. [...]

Radio Bremen: 26.02.07 Death for the Dead Sea – can the saltiest lake f the world be saved? [...] Stefan Pulß speaks to the environmental expert Stefan Hörmann, Global Nature Fund.

Südkurier: 25.05.07 [...] The shore of Lake Constance: Back to nature [...] therefore the Global Nature Fund and the Lake Constance Foundation have initiated a program for about 20 "Opinion Multipliers" from Eastern Europe [...]

Frankfurter Rundschau: 24.07.07 Environmental Pioneer Thielke has died. [] Thielke also founded international environmental protection organisations like the Global Nature Fund [...]

Handelsblatt: 09.08.07 Natural Protection for Coasts
[...] One of the EU projects in Sri Lanka is coordinated by the Global Nature Fund. Working together with local partners from the environmental initiative "Living Lakes," the organisation concerns itself in particular with sustainable fishing practices and an environmentally friendly treatment of mangroves and lagunes.

Internet

In 2007 around 39.000 people per month from around the world visited the GNF's internet site www.globalnature.org. The most hits came from the USA, Great Britain and Germany. The website serves as an information platform for current projects of the GNF like, for instance, the "Threatened Lake of the Year." Supported projects are described in detail and expansive, current information about every member of the Living Lakes Network can be found on the site. The information is available to visitors in English and German and also, in part, in Spanish and Russian. The most important dates can be found on the website (conferences, exhibits etc.) and up to date press releases and background information can be found. Under "downloads" it is possible to find all publications like the annual reports or the newsletter. The www.livingwetlands.org website describes the results of the EU LIFE projects (2001 to 2005).

The Living Lakes website supervised in the USA, was integrated into www.globalnature.org. In 2008 a relaunch of a more modern layout will occur.

A black and white photograph showing a group of people, including children in colorful clothing, working together to plant trees or lay down vegetation in a dry, sandy landscape. The scene is labeled "Toten Meer" in the background.

AKTION DES MONATS

Gärten für den Frieden

Am Toten Meer bauen Kinder ökologische Spielplätze und Gärten für Umwelt und Völkerverständigung.

A smaller black and white photograph showing a group of children sitting on the ground, looking at a book or a map. They appear to be discussing their project or planning their next steps.

Jugendlicher
außenpolitiker
und Friedensaktivist
Johannes Körber
mit Mitgliedern
Garten

Die MENSCHEN im Heiligen Land leidet nicht nur unter dem Krieg zwischen Israelis und Arabern. Nahm kommt ein schwieriger Problem: Der Jordankanal ist sehr angestaut, so dass das Toten Meer keinen Zufluss mehr erhält. Deshalb werden die Vereine der deutschen Natur-schutzorganisation Global Nature Fund (GNF) zum „Jahrfreitakt See des Jahres 2006“ geworht.

Ein Friends of the Earth Middle

East (FOEM) Partie am Internationales Seminar „Sustainable-Living Lakes“ des GNF haben ein Problem gestanden: „Wie kann man einen Wassermangel lindern? In Jugendzentren müssen Kinder, wie man aus wieder verwerteten Baustoffen Gärten und Spielplätze anlegt und pflegt. Sie erlernen, wie man kompostiert und nach Hölz Stahlseile oder Klettergerüste.“

heut, warum ist in der Wüste Palästina und Jordan besser größer alshausen und wie einfach sich die Regen-auffangen lässt. Nach dem Camp gehen sie zurück in ihre Gemeinden und geben ihr Wissen an ihre Freunde weiter. So entwickelt sich ganz übergreifend ein Bewusstsein für die Wasser-situation, dieses Verbrennung an dem Frieden magazin kann.

Die jugendlichen Teilnehmer treten der politischen Spannungen an Israel, Palästina und Jordanien, in denen FORME jeweils ein Büro unterhält. „Ihre Eltern schicken sie frei-willig, denn die stütze Mehrheit in der Region will diesen Frieden“, sagt Präsidentin GNF Barbara Hoffmann. „Das ist eine reale Hoffnung.“ Es zeigt, dass sie selbst etwas tun können, um die Lage zu verbessern – trotz der Höhle, in der sie leben.“

Weiter: [global-nature.de](http://www.global-nature.de), www.foem.org, www.forme.org, www.sustainable-living-lakes.de

BRUNNEN Verlagsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG
603.003
5
Hauptausgabe

Bewerben 11

1

AUSSCHNITT
MEDIENTRABACHTUNG

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The screenshot shows a web browser with the Global Nature Fund website open. The main header features the organization's logo and navigation links for Home, About, Projects, Shop, and Contact. A prominent banner at the top right is titled "Living Lakes" with a blue circular arrow icon. Below the banner, there's a large image of a lake and a green navigation bar with links like "Home", "About", "Projects", "Shop", "Contact", and "Living Lakes". On the left, a sidebar lists "Our Work" categories: Biodiversity, Climate, Energy, Forests, Lakes, Water, Wetlands, and Migratory. The main content area has a green header "Weltweiter Aktion: Global Nature Fund" and displays four small images of lake scenes. Below this, a section for "Living Lakes" includes a photo of a black-necked swan and text about the campaign's goals.

Partners from the Business Sector

Partners from the Business Sector

Businesses have an oftentimes negative impact on the environment and nature. On the other hand a large portion of the world's economy (about 40 percent) is dependent on plant based raw materials and biological actions and profits from an intact environment and a stable ecosystem. The loss of natural and species diversity means that the economic sector has no access to the manuals and recipes found in nature for innovative products and services that could prove to be highly profitable. The US biologist prof. Daniel Janzen said to the loss of biological diversity: "It is as if the countries of the world decided to burn their libraries without previously making the effort to read the books first."

Only through sustainable economic practices can natural resources be conserved and therefore our foundation of life saved in the long-term. The integration of nature and species protection aspects into the environmental management of businesses must be fostered.

In May 2008 Germany played host to the ninth contracted country conference of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD). The previous conferences for biodiversity were barely recognised by the public or economic sectors. To change that, the GNF, working together with the Ministry of the Environment and other actors, started an open dialogue. By these events there was a clear rise in the interest on the part of businesses for species protection and climate protection.

Since its founding the 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 the GNF puts the emphasis on cooperation rather than confrontation. Based on this long standing cooperation with companies from very diverse sectors, GNF has gathered experiences and developed model approaches for the future.

Daimler AG has also supported the Global Nature Fund from the start with the protection of the drinking water reserves through support of the Living Lakes Network. Daimler supports the work of the GNF through financial help and joint projects to protect the environment and nature have also been accomplished. An example of this is the "Nature Summer Camp" which was started in 2003 by Daimler and the GNF. In the framework of the camps, co-workers

engage themselves in their free time together with people in developing countries for nature protection. The volunteers work with engagement and motivation for conservation in chosen projects in a certain area and bring in their experience and knowledge. In exchange they receive new experiences and abilities that are also useful in their work lives. The project has been developed further with the Deutsche Lufthansa AG and other organisations.

The **Deutsche Lufthansa AG** has supported the GNF and Living Lakes since 1998. Environmental responsibility is a tradition with Lufthansa and one of the most important goals of the company. Next to technological measures like innovations to reduce the use of kerosene, noise, waste and waste water, Lufthansa employees have volunteered for the last five years in the innovative Nature Summer Camps project. Another building block is the "Miles to Help" Program which was started in November 2006. In the first 18 months Lufthansa customers donated over 10 million frequent flier miles to three environmental projects of the GNF. With the donations hundreds of trees were planted South Africa and rain forest portions in Brazil could be protected and, although it was not the primary goal of the action, the number of frequent flier flights which contribute to the increase in CO₂ in the atmosphere, could be reduced.

The 10 year support of the globally active corporation, **Unilever**, contributed to the positive development of Living Lakes. It's daughter corporation, Lever Fabergé was one of the first companies to support nature protection organisation. Due to Lever's positive experiences, Unilever was willing to support Living Lakes. Unilever Deutschland formerly Lever Fabergé first aided the Lake Constance Project of DUH, then for over 10 years supported the activities of Lake Constance Foundation (Bodensee-Stiftung) one of the founding members of Living Lakes Network.

The Ludwigsburger **A. ZIEMANN GmbH** is committed to its work with the environmental initiative Living Lakes since 2002. Zieman has also been a partner in the Nature Summer Camps project for many years. For Ziemann, one of the largest producers of beer brewing machinery, the main reason for the partnership is the protection of clean water. Water protection is a matter of course, since pristine water is a requirement for the production of good beer along with being the basis for all life on earth. Because of this, the partnership with the Living Lakes Network is a part of Ziemans engagement for a clean environment.

Cooperation with National and International Institutions

The globally active company **Sika AG**, with its seat in Switzerland, has supported the Living Lakes since 2005. Focal points for 2007 and 2008 were projects in Sri Lanka, Colombia, Kenya and Poland. Employees also took part in the Nature Summer Camps. A goal of the company is responsibility for environment and safety along the entire production chain. Sika takes part in the Responsible Care Program and the Environment Management System ISO 14001.

The internationally active **Osram GmbH** has supported the Global Nature Fund and the Living Lakes Network since 2007. At Lake Victoria in Kenya, the Global Nature Fund in partnership with Osienala and Osram, has started a one of a kind solar project in order to replace the environmentally and health harmful kerosene lamps used for night fishing with environmentally friendly solar lamps. As a global corporation, Osram engages in projects concerning development help, education, art and the environment. Reduction in CO₂ emissions is a company goal, in order to protect the environment for the use of future generations. Because of this, through the initiative "Global Care", the use of energy saving lamps is advertised.

In 2007, the GNF was able to come in contact with the **Toyota Germany GmbH** and become closer to the **Toyota Motor Europe** with its headquarters in Brussel. The international corporation Toyota has supported climate protection for many years. This is also the reason why Toyota is particularly interested in reforestation campaigns and supports these. With this support, the GNF was able to launch the "Floodplain Forest Protection on the Elbe" project with the Deutsche Umwelt Hilfe. The GNF works together with Toyota Germany and Toyota Europe towards the protection and reforestation of Germany and Europe's forests.

Communication plays a decisive role in the co-operation between environmental protectors in the international Living Lakes network. With **T-Mobile**, the GNF was able to win one of the leading cellular providers as a supporter. The corporation, which has worked together with the Deutsche Umwelt Hilfe since 2000, has broadened this cooperation to include the GNF.

In the banking sector the **Ethikbank** and the **GLS-Gemeinschaftsbank** are the GNF's partners. 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 na-

ture and environmental projects of GNF. The **Hypo-Vereinsbank**, part of the UniCredit Group with its headquarters in Munich supported the GNF in 2007 with a donation for the Living Lakes project. The GNF is looking towards a more long term connection with the international financial institution.

The environmental magazine **Natur+Kosmos** has been the GNF's media partner for many years. Along with reporting the current news of the Living Lakes, several GNF projects have received the title "Project of the Month."

Cooperation with National and International Institutions

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. The **Serendib Foundation** supports the post tsunami project in Sir Lanka and India. The **Anton Ehrmann-Foundation** supports projects at Lake Baikal. EthikBank and the GLS-Gemeinschaftsbank are supporters of the GNF in the banking sector. The **Ursula Merz Foundation** supports four GNF projects.

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 for the second time for 2008 and 2009 as an official Decade-Project of the UNESCO initiative "Education for a sustainable development".

The **Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V. (DUH)** and the Global Nature Fund are linked by a shared purpose and close organisational work. The DUH has focused in the last years evermore strongly on consumer protection and creates successful campaigns for energy saving, recycling, keeping the air clean and climate protection. The DUH supports the Living Lakes through the **T-Mobile** program "Phoning for the Environment." The GNF is co-founder of the Climate Alliance which was founded on the 24 July, 2007. There are over 40 organisations in this alliance, including churches, environmental associations and development help organisations that all advocate a decisive climate policy.

9

Project Financing

In November 2008, the GNF will, together with IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and Ramsar, coordinate the second international Strategy Meeting for the topic Lakes and Wetlands at Lake Geneva. The work meeting builds on the first round table which occurred in October 2007 at Lake Constance in Germany. IUCN is the oldest and largest world wide environmental network and supports scientific research and on site projects around the world.

Project Financing

Like many other foundations, Global Nature Fund must acquire the funds for its projects on its own. To complicate matters, the GNF is not capital foundation, which means that it cannot profit from the interest generated by some projects. Financial means must be found for every project, as well as for GNF's entire coordination effort of the international Living Lakes Network. Because of this, an important part of the work is the completion of project applications for institutions that support environmental projects financially. Additional pillars of financing are the collaboration with commercial partners, the acquisition of donations through mailings and allocations from summary proceedings. That it is becoming more and more difficult to obtain donations and grants is felt by small organisations like the Global Nature Fund more so than larger member associations. 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

In 2007 the GNF instigated fund raising campaigns for the following projects: "Species Protection at Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan," "Protection of Whales and Dolphins in the Mediterranean," "Nature Protection in the Brazilian Pantanal," Protect the Baikal Seals at Lake Baikal." Without our donors and supporters it would not be possible to support our current projects or start new ones. Finally in September 2007 the bill for the strengthening of city council engagement passed. The law is retroactive to 1 January 2007 and offers tax alleviation for donors and benefactors. Three important changes are:

The equality of non-profit donation purposes in the income tax: donations and membership fees can be deducted up to 20% from the taxable income as special expenses. (previously only 5%)

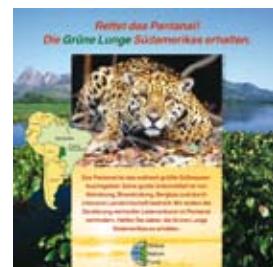
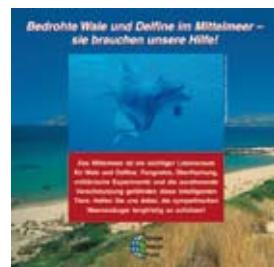
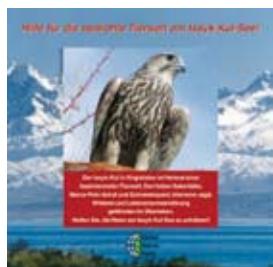
New founding of foundations: up to 1 Mio. € can be paid into the foundation assets that can then be spread over 10 years. (previously only 307.000€).

The presentation of a voucher of payment stamped by the bank is up to 200€ as proof for the tax office. (previously 100€).

Our circle of donors has expanded to include larger donors like, for instance, institutional supporters such as the Ethikbank, the Ursula Merz Foundation and the Ehrmann Foundation. More and more donors are also taking us up on our yearly offer to come to the GNF offices and see our work first hand during a trip to Lake Constance.

Testations

Through testations the individual wishes of the deceased can be honoured through support of a specific project or as a general donation. As a non-profit organisation the Global Nature Fund does not have to pay inheritance taxes. Many of our donors think about gifting money during their lifetimes, because



of course it is nicer when one can also experience the joy of a generous donation. The GNF has released a 16 page guide for the writing of a valid will that can be requested free of charge. At this time various changes are being made in inheritance laws by lawmakers. The guide is continually updated based on the current law.

Endowment Contribution

With endowment contributions people can give parts of their wealth to non-profit organisations like the Global Nature Fund. This is possible during a lifetime as well as after death through a testation. According to the bylaws of the GNF, an endowment contribution is possible from 20.000 €. The contributor automatically becomes a trustee. Active membership can be abstained from, as multiple trustees have done previously. But passive trustees also receive all important information such as the minutes and decisions of the trustee meetings.

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.

Grants

In the framework of the EU-Asia-ProEco Programs the three year Post-Tsunami Project of the GNF and two partner organisations is being continued until the end of 2008 with the support of the EU-Commission, Sika, Serendib and the Ursula Merz Foundation. The project focuses on the reestablishment of the existential basis for people affected by the Tsunami and the renaturation of mangrove forests.

The "Eastern Europe Living Lakes Network" project is being financially supported by the Deutsch Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU). With partners in Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Germany, concrete actions are taken to confront the themes of eco-tourism, sustai-

nable fishing, environmentally sustainable land use planning, regional development and management of nature protection areas.

The „Business and Biodiversity“ conference that took place in April 2008 in Bonn was already fully established in 2007. The expansive planning leading up the conference and the conference itself was supported by the Bundesamt für Naturschutz (BfN) with money from the Bundesministeriums für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit (BMU), the Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ) (from 1. January 2008) and the Foundation for international encounters of the Sparkasse in Bonn.

Donations in Kind

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. Especially the project partners from poorer countries would not be able to afford the yearly meetings. 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.

Outline 2008**Nature Summer Camps 2008**

Along with the established and beloved nature summer Camp at Lake St. Lucia in South Africa, this year employees of our industrial partners Lufthansa, Sika and Ziemann can, for the first time in 2008, take part in a Nature Summer Camp in India. There at the Pulicat lagoon, together with the Indian and British Living Lakes partners (CReNIEO und British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, BTCV) participants will plant mangrove seedlings, take care of irrigation systems and help with events for school children.

Miles to Help

In the framework of the "Miles to Help" program of Lufthansa and the partner airlines of the Star Alliance, people can donate their frequent flier miles to nature protection projects of the GNF. In 2008 among others, a project at the Poyang Lake in China was supported. This lake is the largest in China and serves as an important winter resting place for the Snow Crane. Extensive scientific research is necessary in order to create a useful and effective protection program for these endangered migratory birds. More information can be found at: www.globalnature.org/miles-to-help.

Living Lakes Conference at Lake Trasimeno

The 12. International Living Lakes Conference is taking place from the 23 to 26 September at Lake Trasimeno in the province of Perugia in Italy. The central theme of the conference is the cultural values

The next Living Lakes Conference will be held at Lake Trasimeno in Umbria, Italy



of lakes and the protection and sustainable development of cultural landscapes in lake regions. The conference will be opened by the Italian environmental minister and the president of the region of Perugia and the president of the Bundesamt für Naturschutz will also take part in the conference.

"Business ad Biodiversity" Conference

In the run up to the UN-biodiversity conference in Bonn, the Global Nature Fund (GNF) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH organised a two day international conference on Business and Biodiversity. 250 participants presented and discussed the effects of business on the planet's biodiversity and which changes in the industrial sectors are necessary to sustain this biodiversity

Solar Energy Stations at Lake Victoria

The GNF and the Kenyan Living Lakes partner organisation have been working together for years at Lake Victoria to replace kerosene lamps used for night fishing with environmentally friendly solar lamps that can be refuelled during the day at solar energy stations. The German company Osram has taken control of this project and is taking care, through the necessary financial investment, that the project on Lake Victoria can be expanded. The first large solar energy station for several hundred fishermen was opened in April 2008. The lamps can be utilized in homes as a light source as well as on the lake for night fishing. In another project, in partnership with the companies SilverSan Healthcare, Elektro Trück, Solarworld, Buderus and Lufthansa Cargo, a drinking water filtration system is being installed for a school with 3.000 students.

"Light for All" with the help of solar energy stations at Lake Victoria.



Living Lakes Eastern Europe Conference

As the highlight of the from the DBU supported three year project "Living Lakes Network Eastern Europe" 100 nature conservationists from more than 10 different European countries met in Estonia on the 19 to 22 of February 2008. Along with excursions to the two largest lakes of the country; the Peipsi and Võrtsjärv-both Living Lakes partners- a conference was held in Tartu. The main topics of the network "environmentally friendly tourism", "environmentally sustainable fishing", "and sustainable land use"and"visitor management in protected regions" were discussed.

Kids for the Dolphins

With the project „Kids for the Dolphins, "the international exchange between Indonesian and German students is meant to be encouraged. During the winter semester the Überlinger Constantin Vanotti School will take up the program as part of their global studies course. The students are able to leave their own footprint on this earth through different modules that they can create themselves. In Indonesia an environmental education book is being printed, a training program for teachers is being created and an interactive extracurricular course for students is being carried out.

Kids looking out for the rare Irrawaddy Dolphin in line with the „Kids for the Dolphins" project in the Mahakam area.



Environmental Education Centres in Sri Lanka

In April and July 2008 two new environmental education centres were completed and inaugurated by the Nagenahiru Foundation and EMACE. New employment opportunities through the teaching of traditional handicraft techniques have been created in close cooperation with schools and education organizations. One of the centres is in Godahena, on the border of an intact and protected mangrove forest in the Madampe area. The first brackish water aquarium in Sri Lanka is one of the attractions of the centre and is very popular with school children. In the centres people are also trained in environmental protection. The waste water of the centre is cleaned using a Green filter which makes use of the cleaning properties of plants. The technology has already been successfully put into practice in the Dominican Republic and Spain by the Spanish partner organization Fundación Global Nature and is now being used for the first time in Sri Lanka.

In total the multiple year project in Sri Lanka has been supported with about 700.000 €. Supporters are the Serendib Foundation, the Ursula Merz Foundation and Sika. The main portion of the money comes from the European Union.

Students help with the building of a Green Filter in Sri Lanka.



11 Appendix

GNF-Office

Contact Information of GNF-Teams

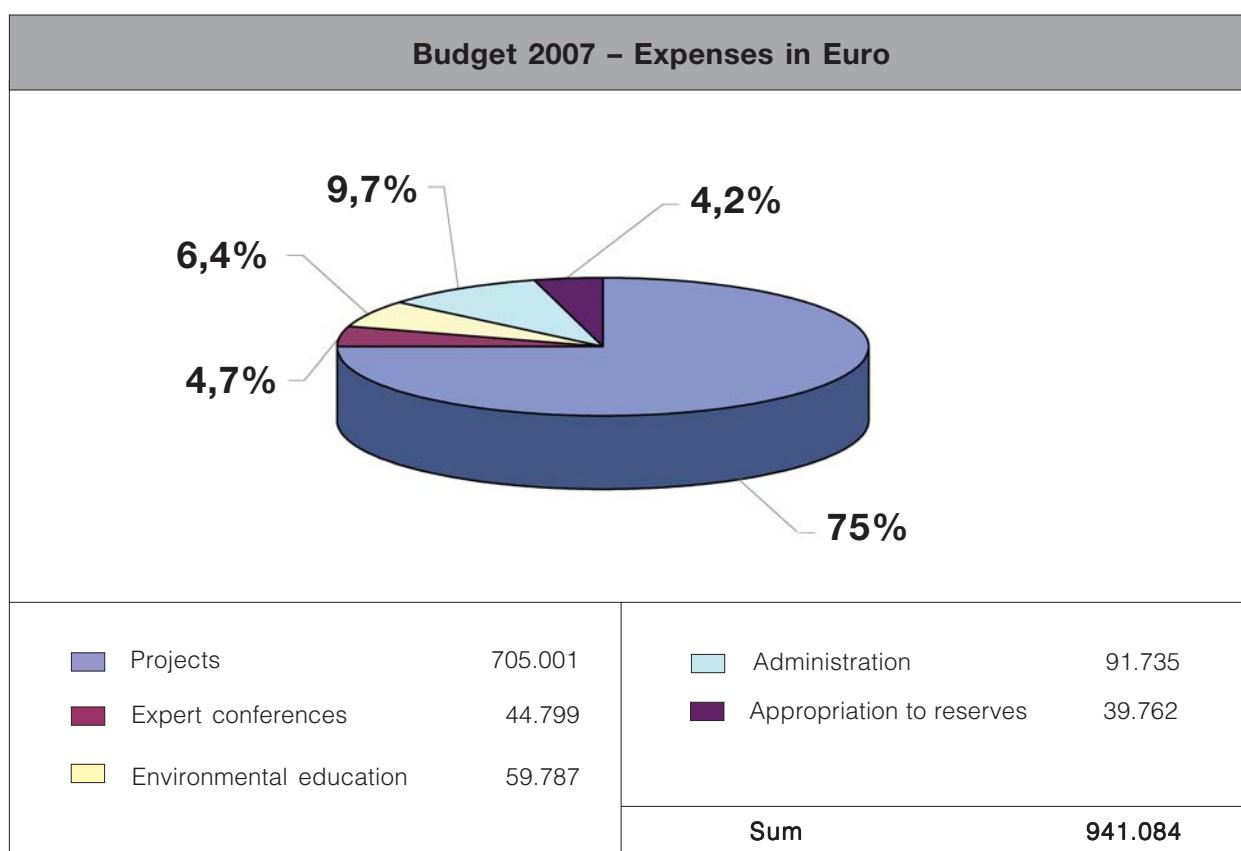
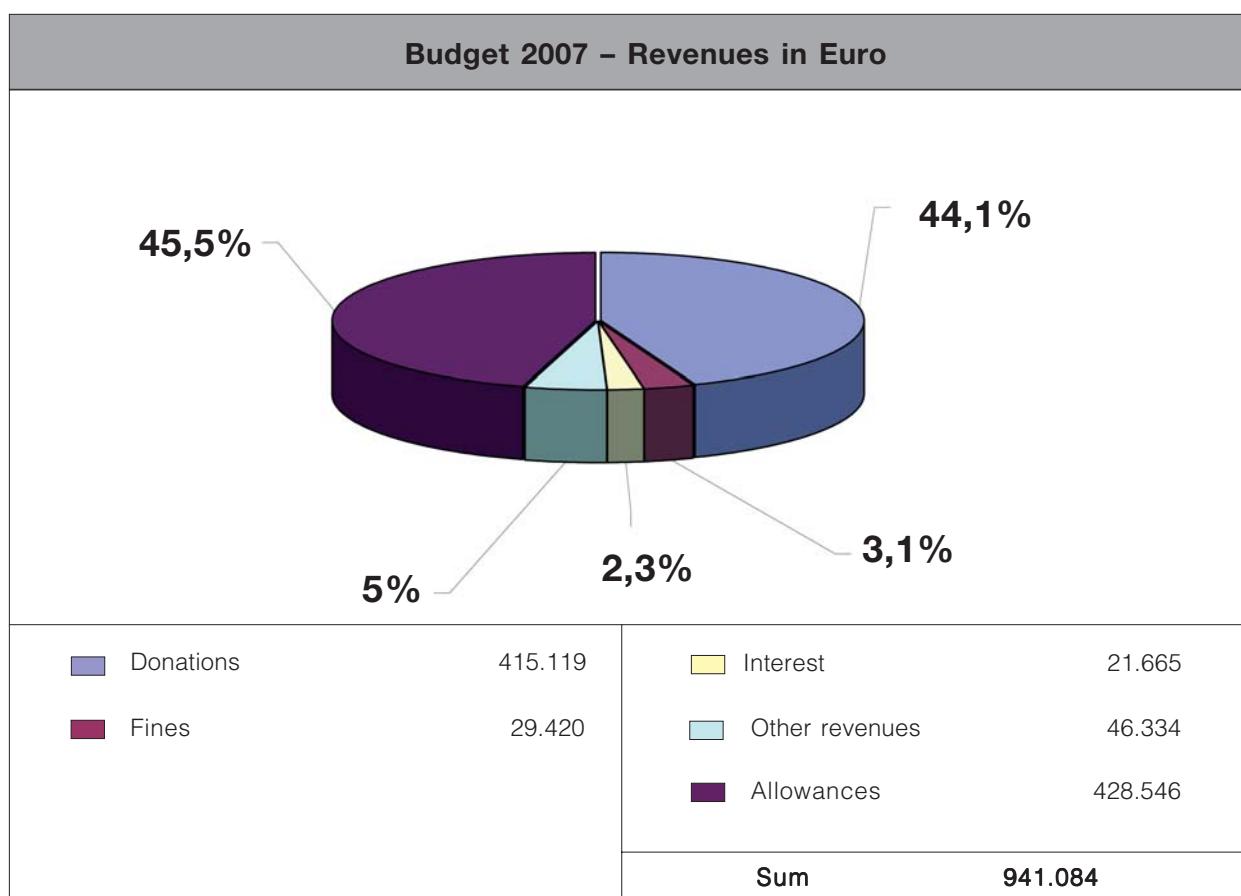
GNF-Headquarters		07732-9995-0
Udo Gattenlöhner	Executive Director	07732-9995-80
Bettina Jahn	Project Management	07732-9995-84
Uwe Friedel	Project Management	07732-9995-84
Stefanie Lampert	Project Management	07732-9995-82
Manuela Uhde	Finance und Marketing	07732-9995-85
Ursula Ehinger	Project Assistance and Administration	07732-9995-86
Gudrun Schomers	Secretariat/Translation	07732-9995-12
Ulrike Novak	Accounting Assistance	07732-9995-83
Almut Weis	Webmaster	07732-9995-83
Trainee	Project Assistance	07732-9995-82
Stefan Hörmann	Office Bonn, Project Management	0228-2429018
Albert Wotke	Office Berlin	030-258986-0
Marion Hammerl	GNF-President	07732-9995-45



		Personnel	Sum
Expenses			
Projects			
Living Lakes (and projects < 500)	88.803,97	59.839,24	
St. Lucia	5.010,00	0,00	
Nestos	1.505,50	0,00	
Lake Constance	25.000,00	0,00	
Lake Baikal	37.047,32	4.017,32	
Pantanal	76.199,13	3.158,04	
Laguna Fuguene	10.005,50	0,00	
Mahakam Wetlands	34.983,14	6.276,14	
Lake Victoria	16.442,20	2.411,94	
Lake Poyang	2.280,00	0,00	
Issy-Kul, Kirgisien	6.000,00	0,00	
EU-Regional Planning	4.677,55	4.079,50	
EU-Eco-Asia-Projekt/Post Tsunami	233.712,63	56.327,14	
Renewable Energy/Victoria Lake and Sri Lanka (GTZ)	-8.179,96	0,00	
Network Eastern Europe (DBU)	125.483,97	47.688,01	
Cultural Landscapes Extremadura	6.023,50	0,00	
Cultural Landscape River Elbe	30.000,00	5.000,00	
Whales and Dolphins (Balearic Islands, Majorca)	10.006,50	0,00	
			705.000,95
Expert Conferences	44.799,09	29.253,22	
			44.799,09
Environmental Education	59.786,90	30.289,38	
			59.786,90
Administration	91.735,68	32.945,15	
			91.735,68
Appropriation to reserves			39.762,22
		281.285,08	
			941.084,84
Income			
general			
Interest and Investment proceeds	21.665,30		
Dissolution liabilities	23.200,00		
Reimbursement personnel costs	14.918,88		
Reimbursement tangible costs	8.015,38		
Fines	29.420,00		
Other revenues	200,00		
			97.419,56
Donations			
General donations	61.251,67		
Earmarked for special purposes	47.311,05		
Resulting from actions	48.276,72		
Supporters	2.075,00		
Patronages	26.431,70		
Free advertising	4.773,07		
Big donations	225.000,00		
In-kind donations	0,00		
			415.119,21
Allowances			
for actions and campaigns (DBU, others)	209.656,77		
for Expert Conferences (Sport+Nature, Solar, Biodiversity)	43.150,71		
for EU-Eco-Asia project Post-Tsunami	175.738,59		
			428.546,07
Withdrawal from reserves			0,00
			941.084,84

Radolfzell, 23 June 2008, audited by Herberger GmbH

ACTIVA/Assets	EUR	EUR	<u>2006 in TEUR</u>
I. Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets			
Office equipment	3.105,72		4,23
Financial Assets			
1. Investments (Oeko Geno)	306,78		0,31
2. Reinsurance pension fund	42.056,06		40,36
3. loans	0,00		1,50
		45.468,56	46,39
II. Current Assets			
1. Cash in hand and cash at bank			
Cash	88,88		0,55
Bank accounts	163.119,69		171,31
Fixed term deposit, GLS-Bank	179.082,00		249,59
Fixed term deposit, EthikBank	465.150,00	807.440,57	315,15 736,60
2. Receivables			
Receivables from suppliers + services	69.641,08		85,72
Receivables from DBU	45.000,00		0,00
Other Receivables	16.495,24		0,48
Rent deposit	2.789,78	133.926,10	2,78 88,98
3. Other assets			
Security paper (investments)	100.350,00	100.350,00	0,00 0,00
III. Active Adjustment		2.586,72	0,52
		1.089.771,95	872,49
PASSIVA/Liabilities			
I. Foundation capital	357.638,04		
payments to foundation capital	<u>60.000,00</u>	417.638,04	387,64
II. Balance carried forward on 01-01-2007	237.417,22		236,93
appropriation/withdrawal	<u>39.762,22</u>	277.179,44	0,48 237,41
III. Liabilities			
Trade liabilities	29.808,09		32,39
Liabilities project grants	131.952,60		69,06
Liabilities salaries and wages	4.165,32		4,42
Other Liabilities	2.145,26		0,00
Liabilities VAT (7%)	5.250,00	173.321,27	5,25 111,12
IV. Provisions			
Retirement provisions	42.056,06		40,36
Other provisions	<u>100.914,14</u>	142.970,20	48,76 89,12
V. Passive Adjustment		78.663,00	47,20
		1.089.771,95	872,49



Contacts 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

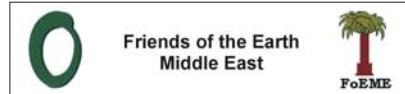
Lake Victoria; Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda



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
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