



Annual Report 2008/2009

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“Daily life in the world must change.”

Achim Steiner

Exekutivdirektor des UN-Umweltprogramms (UNEP)

Preface

Sadly not even the environmental protection organisations can ignore the financial and economic crisis. Despite the continuing global warming discussion and the alarming data from scientists that states that even the worst scenarios created by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change are probably still too optimistic; arguments from the 70's, which we thought were finally no longer relevant, are being rehashed. "Now we need to focus on the economy," is the sentiment coming from the political and economic arena. Climate and environmental protection are subordinate concerns.

There are striking parallels between the financial and the ecological crisis. Since the turn of the century, humanity has been overusing nearly all natural resources. We are taking out "rotten loans" daily from nature. The financial crisis, which was also triggered through rotten loans, should serve as a warning. Rotten loans do not work; not in the financial world and certainly not in association with our planet. If we make the same mistakes with global warming, there will be catastrophic economic and social ramifications for humanity.

In order to promote a rethinking in the economic sector, GNF has, from the beginning, sought a dialog with the economic sector. Through joint projects we seek to demonstrate the contributions companies can, and must, make towards sustainability and environmental protection. How this looks in real life can be seen from the concrete examples from the Living Lakes Network. Despite the economic crisis, our long term partners such as Deutsche Lufthansa, Daimler, Sika, Ziemann and Osram remain faithful. New partners have also realised the possibilities of collaboration. Joint projects with Reckitt Benckiser, wpd and Dicota are planned for the upcoming year.

In the past years many concrete successes were achieved within the framework of the Living Lakes Network such as the creation of management plans for Lake Invermere in Canada, Lago Chapala in Mexico and Mar Chiquita in Argentina. With the support of Living Lakes, La Nava in Spain, the Columbia River Wetlands in Canada and Lago Chapala in Mexico became RAMSAR biological reserves. At the La Nava steppe lake, the lagoons were enlarged by over 100 hectares through renaturation. A new and simple biological sewage treatment plant was installed in various lakes throughout Europe and in Sri Lanka where it aids in the bettering of the water quality. The Tonga school in Kenya now has a solar facility for drinking water purification and fishermen at Lake Victoria now have the opportunity to use solar lamps for night fishing and to recharge the batteries at solar power service stations. Whether talking about the Baikal seal in Siberian Russia, the Snow Crane at Lake Poyang in China or the Irrawaddy dolphin in Indonesia, the list of the species for whose protection the GNF has initiated projects, is long.

The over 70 partner organisations of the GNF stand worldwide with forward thinking, concrete ideas and projects for the long overdue change in direction towards a sustainable usage of our natural resources, especially water. Living Lakes needs, in 2009, your full support. We hope that we can count on you.

With heartfelt thanks to the GNF staff, GNF board of directors, to the scientific advisory council, and to our sponsors and supporters,

Yours sincerely,

Marion Hammerl



President



Udo Gattenlöhner



Executive Director



Introduction of the Global Nature Fund (GNF)

Introduction of the Global Nature Fund (GNF)

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, environmental 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 (Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V.) ensures representation of GNF in Berlin.

The Foundation's aims are realised through the:

- Implementation and execution of environmental projects geared towards the conservations of wildlife and their habitats,
- Development of projects for the promotion of sustainable management, climate- and species protection,
- Environmental education through publications and events regarding the protection of the environment and nature,
- Promotion of international Conventions,
- Promotion of the international dialogue between environmental organisations, industries, administrations, politicians and scientists,
- Support of sustainable and fair global development, in so much as this relates to natural and environmental protection issues.

Structure

The Senate Office for Justice in Berlin approved the foundation on 29 April 1998. On December 31, 2008, the foundation's funds totalled 417.638,04 EUR. The foundation's institutions are, according to § 4 of the charter, the Board of Directors and the Founders Committee. The Board of Directors 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 Board of Directors members in the areas of conservation

is of high importance and very helpful to the work of the Global Nature Fund.

The Board of Directors consists of the following members:



Marion Hammerl
(President),
Orsingen, Germany



Prof. Aitken Clark
(Vice-President),
Cambridge, UK



Ranveig Eckhoff,
Berlin, Germany



Dr. Hendrik Hoeck,
Kreuzlingen, Switzerland



Jörg Dürr-Pucher,
Radolfzell, Germany

The **Founders Committee** monitors the foundation and with it the Board of Directors. The Founders Committee consists of the founding members and donors. Currently, the following people compose the Founders Committee:

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

Other founders committee members that have, at their own request, abdicated their vote are Karla Bauer, Dr. Renate Gehring and the A. Ziemann GmbH. Renate Keith has made a donation to the GNF by means of a legacy.

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

- Roger de Freitas, Great Britain
- Prof. Dr. Masahisa Nakamura, Japan
- Prof. Dr. Manfred Niekisch, Germany
- Mike Ounsted, Netherlands
- Dr. Antonio Gómez Reyna, Mexico
- Dr. Tillmann Stottele, Germany
- Prof. Dr. Michael Succow, Germany
- Dr. Andrew Venter, South Africa

Memberships

The GNF is a member of the following organisations:

- Bundesverband Deutscher Stiftungen
- Deutscher Fundraisingverband
- Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR)
- Ecotrans e.V.
- Eco-Camping
- FAN (Freshwater Action Network)
- Future e.V.
- Klimaallianz Deutschland

2 Living Lakes – Lebendige Seen



Partnerseen

1. Columbia River Feuchtgebiete; Kanada
2. Mono Lake; USA
3. Chapala See; Mexiko
4. Laguna Fúquene; Kolumbien
5. Titicaca See; Bolivien und Peru
6. Pantanal; Brasilien, Bolivien und Paraguay
7. Laguna de Rocha, Uruguay
8. Mar Chiquita; Argentinien
9. Norfolk und Suffolk Broads; Großbritannien
10. La Nava; Spanien
11. Bodensee; Deutschland, Schweiz und Österreich
12. Trasimeno See; Italien
13. Balaton (Plattensee); Ungarn
14. Militscher Teiche; Polen
15. Peipsi-See; Estland und Russland

Assoziierte Partnerseen

1. Laguna Atotonilco; Mexiko
2. Amatitlan See; Guatemala
3. Atitlán See; Guatemala
4. Lago Enriquillo und Lac Azuéi; Dominikanische Republik und Haiti
5. Mar Menor; Spanien
6. Lake District; Großbritannien
7. Kolindsund; Dänemark
8. Mindelsee; Deutschland
9. Salobrar de Campos; Mallorca, Spanien
10. Ortasee; Italien
11. Lago Maggiore; Italien

16. Võrtsjärv-See; Estland
17. Nestos Seen und Lagunen; Griechenland
18. Paliastomi See; Georgien
19. Uluabat See; Türkei
20. Viktoriasee; Kenia, Tansania und Uganda
21. St. Lucia See; Südafrika
22. Totes Meer; Israel, Jordanien und Palästina
23. Tengis See; Kasachstan
24. Maduganga See und Madampe See; Sri Lanka
25. Bolgoda See; Sri Lanka
26. Baikalsee; Russland
27. Poyang See; China
28. Biwa See; Japan
29. Laguna de Bay; Philippinen
30. Jempang See & Mahakam Feuchtgebiet; Indonesien
1. Ehrensee; Wostok; Antarktis

12. Gardasee; Italien
13. Bolsenasee; Italien
14. Piediluco See; Italien
15. Vicosee; Italien
16. Regionalpark Labanoras; Litauen
17. Sapanca See; Türkei
18. Issyk-Kul See; Kirgistan
19. Uvs See; Mongolei
20. Wular See; Indien
21. Pulicat See; Indien
22. Taal See; Philippinen
23. Sampaloc See; Philippinen
24. Wilson Inlet; Australien

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.

Strengthened though the discussion surrounding climate change, protection of water sources has become a central issue and the topic is gaining in importance around the world. The Living Lakes Network offers partner organisations a platform for international dialogue, exchange of experiences and technology, and furthers the practical implementation of environmental and conservation 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. At the moment the network consists of 55 partners (30 partner lakes, 24 associated partners 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. Organisations that do not meet all conditions for a full membership may also become associate members. They benefit from all the advantages of the network but do not have the right to vote in the democratic network's decision-making process. 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.



3 Events and Activities

Events and Activities

The GNF took part in the following events as either an organiser or participant in 2008.

14. November 2007 – December 2008

Travelling Exhibit
„Pantanal – A Natural Paradise in Danger“

3 – 6 January 2008

Environmental Protection Days Radolfzell at Lake Constance

18 – 20 January 2008

Travelling Pavilion, Neue Messe Stuttgart

15 February 2008

National Awards Ceremony
„Trophée de Femmes“, Stuttgart

19 – 23 February 2008

Conference „Sustainable Development in Lake Regions“, Tartu, Estonia

6 – 7 March 2008

International Award Ceremony
„Trophée de Femmes“, Paris, France

2 – 3 April 2008

International Conference
„Economy and Biodiversity“, Bonn

3 – 7 May 2008

6th European Ramsar Regional Meeting, Stockholm, Sweden

19 – 30 May 2008

9. Conference of Parties to the UN-Convention on Biological Diversity, Bonn

28 May 2008

**The Economy and Biodiversity–
Perspectives from European NGOs (Podium Discussion), Bonn**

29 May 2008

The Meaning of the Private Sector for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Oceans and Fresh Water Areas. (Presentations), Bonn

29 May 2008

First International Biodiversity Auction, Bonn

11 – 13 September 2008

4th Meeting of the Living Lakes Friends, Radolfzell at Lake Constance

12 – 14 September 2008

Focus Nature – International Bird and Nature Watching Days

12 - 14 September 2008

First Nature Conservation Auction at Lake Constance, Radolfzell

13 September 2008

Climate Alliance – Demonstration at the Coal Power Plants Staudinger und Jäschwalde

22 – 27 September 2008

12th Living Lakes Conference
„Cultural Landscapes and Lake Protections“, Lake Trasimeno, Italy

5 – 14 October 2008

4th IUCN World Congress (World Conservation Congress WCC), Barcelona, Spain

29 – 30 October 2008

Biodiversity of Surface Water, Flood Zones and Ground Water, Symposium of BfN and UBA, Bonn

31 October – 2 November 2008

3rd Wonder Worlds – The Photo Festival at Lake Constance, Friedrichshafen

17 – 21 November 2008

Final Conference EU Post Tsunami-Project, Sri Lanka

12th Living Lakes Conference “Cultural Landscapes and Lake Protection“ in Italy

The 12th Living Lakes Conference in conjunction with the 10th anniversary celebration of the Living Lakes Network took place in Italy from the 22nd to the 27th of September 2008. GNF and its Italian partner organisations invited participants to the Lago Trasimeno in Italy. Focus of the conference was the connection between culture and the use of natural resources in lake regions. During the conference the Laguna de Rocha became the 55th member of the Living Lakes Network. The 7,200 hectares large lake in Uruguay is an important bird sanctuary. The relatively shallow lake is most in danger from a lack of water, pollution and over fertilisation.

The over 100 representatives from the Living Lakes Network in attendance wrote the “Trasimeno Declaration” which sets important standards for lake protection in connection with cultural landscapes. The conference participants pointed out that the continuing world wide destruction of lakes and wetlands can only be stopped through the collaboration of politicians, business and society. Lakes and their catchment areas are especially important for the future of humanity due to their historical, spiritual and aesthetic value.

You can find the Trasimeno Declaration at: www.globalnature.org/12LL-Konferenz.

Mangrove Conference in Sri Lanka

At the end of 2008, the 3 year post-tsunami project in Sri Lanka, which had developed into one of the most successful initiatives of the GNF, was completed. The reforestation of mangrove forests and the decline in the environmental impact through kerosene lamps are among the most important results of the project. In the past 3 years, over 50 hectares of mangrove forest could be reforested. Since the bark, fruit and leaves of mangroves are important substances for traditional medicine; lessons on medicinal plants and eco-tourism were part of the education programme in order to secure the financial future of the people.

In the context of the closing ceremonies on November 23, 2008, a second environmental education centre was inaugurated which offers a course about almost forgotten traditional handiwork techniques to the people in the region. The event offered a valuable platform for discussion and an exchange of experiences between engaged organisations and institutions, administrations and business partners from various countries. The GNF and the Living Lakes partner organisations in Sri Lanka: the Nagenahiru Foundation and EMACE, were the hosts of the closing ceremonies. The project was supported by the European Union, Sika, the Serendib Foundation and the Ursula Merz Foundation. The continuation of the projects in Sri Lanka is made possible through the support of Sika, the Ursula Merz Foundation and the Wuppertal Institute.

„Kulturlandschaft und Seenschutz“ war das Thema der 12. Living Lakes-Konferenz 2008 am Trasimeno See Italien.



Traditionelle Handwerkstechniken können auch der jungen Generation in Sri Lanka wieder ein Einkommen verschaffen.



Fourth Meeting of the Living Lakes Friends at Lake Constance

The GNF welcomed long standing donors and supporters in Radolfzell from the 11th to the 13th of September. An informative programme was again created for the guests. The group visited a small hydroelectric power plant for decentralised energy supply. The hydroelectric power plant generates about 650,000 kWh/per year and supplies a nearby retirement home with electricity. On board the Helio, the largest solar ferry on Lake Constance, the guests learned interesting facts about Lake Constance and solar ferries and enjoyed the end of the day.

The "Landesdomäne Hohentwiel" was scheduled for the second day. Around the volcanic mountain Hohentwiel, the connection between farming and environmental protection was explained to the guests. Dr. Both has been engaging in ecological sheep and goat husbandry since 1998 and, in doing this, has been helping to protect the one of a kind flora and fauna. Around 600 sheep, some of which are the robust forest sheep and 60 goats help to keep important areas clear. In this way, competitively weak and light needing plants such as Marsh Orchid and Hyssop can flourish.

Back in Radolfzell, the 140 hectare large nature preserve Mettnau was visited. Under the direction of NABU, the hike passed by the autumn meadow with its bright blue Alcon Blue. The Focus Nature exhibition at Radolfzell on the shores of Lake Constance was scheduled for the third day. The meeting of the Friends of the Living Lakes was again in 2008 a success at which both guests and hosts enjoyed themselves.

Focus Nature – International Days of Bird Watching and Nature Observation

The Focus Nature Fair took place for the second time on the 12th to the 14th of September 2008 in Radolfzell at Lake Constance. The fair is directed at people that enjoy nature observation and photography. The organisation of the event was taken care of through the collaboration of the Bodensee-Stiftung, the Deutsche Umwelthilfe and the GNF. The event again took place in close proximity to the shore of Lake Constance so that visitors could immediately start their search with the provided binoculars and spotting scopes. Besides guided excursions in the nearby natural preserves, visitors were also able to glide along the water with the help of canoes or the solar ferry Helio and observe the ornithological rarities which can be found at Lake Constance. Workshops on nature and macro-photography were offered for the first time which gave beginners the chance to learn a few tips. The GNF presented its work on the Living Lakes Network.

The first nature conservation auction at Lake Constance took place on September 13, 2008 at Lake Constance with the theme, "Nature under the hammer." On this occasion, private citizens and corporations were able to purchase work time for the care of fruit tree meadows, wild fruit hedges and bee meadows. At the same time, an international white stork conference took place at the Gerhard Thielcke junior high school which completed the activities offered for engaged visitors from throughout Europe.

The Guests visited the rough ramp at the hydroelectric plant in Singen.



Living Lakes Eastern Europe Conference

In 2005, GNF started a project geared towards the build up and development of an Eastern European Living Lakes Network. In February 2008, the project was completed with an event in Tartu, Estonia. With funds from the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt, the GNF was able to initiate a multitude of measures during the 3 year programme. The most important areas were sustainable fishing, conservation measures, environmentally friendly tourism and sustainable land use planning. Intensive training courses secured the active exchange of experiences between the partner countries; Germany, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania and Poland. In the context of the project it became clear that the eastern European lakes and wetlands require a large amount of care. Therefore the network should be developed further and new partner organisations from central and eastern European should be brought in. possible partners from Croatia, Bulgaria, Albania, the Czech Republic, and Montenegro have already expressed a great deal of interest.

A goal for the coming years is the development of joint concepts for the sustainable use of landscaping materials and reeds for the generation of heat and electricity. Other important themes are the necessary adaptation to global warming and the improvement of waste water treatment in communities in rural areas. The results of the project were documented and are available on a CD in the national languages of the participating countries and in English. The contributions from the ending conference can also be found in the internet at: www.globalnature.org/Osteuropa-Publikationen and can be downloaded for free.

Bei den Exkursionen zum Võrtsjärv und Peipsi See konnten sich die Teilnehmer der Living Lakes Osteuropa-Konferenz einen verschneiten Eindruck der Naturschutzaktivitäten vor Ort machen.



Conference: Corporations and Biodiversity Protection

„Industry and Biodiversity“ was the title of an international conference of the GNF and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ). From April 2 to 3, 2008, 250 experts from 22 nations questioned how corporations could reduce the negative consequences of their economic activities on biodiversity and ecosystems. The great participant feedback shows that corporations, politicians, scientists along with environmental and development organisations are becoming more and more invested in this topic. Corporations from many branches such as tourism, mining and the pharmaceutical industry, profit from the conservation of the ecosystem. About 40% of the worlds economy depend on raw materials derived from plants and biological processes.

A focal point for the conferences was the meaning of biodiversity in conjunction with corporate risk management and new marketing potentials for “biodiversity friendly” products like food from ecological cultivation. The four environmental organisations – BUND, NABU, WWF and GNF – explained their stance and called for a strengthened engagement from the private sector for the protection of biodiversity. Fittingly, the GNF started a programme entitled “Corporate Opportunity Nature and Biological Diversity”, through which corporations receive concrete support with the planning and achieving of biodiversity goals. The execution of a Europe wide campaign for development of corporate accountability will become a focus for future activities of the GNF.

The Bundesamt für Naturschutz (Federal Agency for Nature Conservation) with funds from the Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit (Federal Environment Ministry), the Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (Federal Ministry for Econo-

The participant feedback at the Biodiversity Conference conference shows the growing meaning of the topic „Industry and Biodiversity.“



mic Cooperation and Development) as well as the Stiftung Internationale Begegnung of the Sparkasse (Foundation for International Dialogue of the Sparkasse) in Bonn sponsored the conference.

First Biodiversity Auction in Bonn

Instead of paintings from the old masters, at the GNF biodiversity auction on May 29, 2008, jaguars, rhinoceros and fruit trees are being auctioned off. Under the heading, "Landscape Auctions" the corporation Triple E developed this new financing tool for environmental protection in the Netherlands with great success. Over 200,000 EUR were raised for the maintenance and protection of the natural world at the auction. The idea behind the auction is this: corporations and private persons offer bids for the protection of endangered and rare species. Local environmental protection organisations decide beforehand the starting bid that they need to be able to carry out these protective measures. With the auction, the highest bidder gives a concrete sum to the preservation of biological diversity through an experienced environmental organisation. The auctioned object naturally does not "belong" to the highest bidder. The collaboration of Triple E and the GNF was meant to make the idea of the auction known outside of the Netherlands. The first joint auction in conjunction with the UN conservation conference in Bonn generated 4,000 EUR. Protection measures for jaguars in the Brazilian Pantanal were won by the German Lufthansa and the consulting agency Dokeo. The energy consulting company Clean Energy was the highest bidder for the planting and care of fruit trees at Lake Constance. TUI AG successfully bid for the reforestation of mangrove forests in Sri Lanka. Smaller companies such as the men's clothing company Bachstein from Constance involved themselves with their bid for the protection of forests in Asia.

Bei der ersten Naturschutzauktion in Bonn standen seltene Tierarten und Lebensräume zum „Verkauf“.



Travelling Exhibition „Pantanal- A Natural Paradise in Danger“

The exhibition, designed in 2007 with the aid of the biologist Angelika Hofer and the renowned nature photographer Günter Ziesler, was shown with great success in the Osnabrück, Heidelberg, Cologne and Duisburg zoos, in the Hankensbüttel otter centre and in the wild animal park Bernburg. The exhibition is booked solid for 2009 and will be shown in Bonn, Chemnitz and Husum. Large scale pictures show the wonders of the Pantanal including spectacular photos of jaguars, caimans, fish otters and macaws in a breathtaking landscape. A fascinating illustrated book from Angelika Hofer and Günter Ziesler accompanies the exhibit and shows remarkable pictures collected during several trips to the Pantanal region of the plentiful animal and plant world. Accompanying lectures, a Pantanal poster from the renowned artist Harro Maass and new workbooks for students complete the exhibit which campaigns for the conservation of the world's largest wetland and its natural treasures. The project was supported by the Ursula Merz Foundation.

The Wonders of the Pantanal in their full Beauty.



Environmental Education

Living Lakes is again a UN Decade Project

For their work in the context of the worldwide Living Lakes Network, the GNF was again named as a UN Decade Project by the jury of the German national committee of the UN Decade "Education and Sustainable Development." The UN Decade rewards projects which bring knowledge and values to people, are engaged in creating a worthwhile future and conserve our natural livelihood for future generations. The GNF and the international Living Lakes Network received the award in 2006/2007 and now also for 2008/2009.



Nature Summer Camps 2008

The Nature Summer Camps took place for the 6th time in the context of the Living Lakes Network. The Nature Summer Camps are a practical example of the cooperation of environmental organisations with industry in which employees of the corporations and their families are directly included. In 2008, employees of Lufthansa, Sika and Ziemann were offered the opportunity to aid the Living Lakes projects. This type of volunteer work is a combination of conservation and adventure trip and brought forth great interest from young adults. With great commitment they contributed a great deal to environmental protection. The tasks of the participants included reforestation work in the tsunami hit regions of Lake Pulicat in India and wild animal counting at the St Lucia La-

kes in South Africa. The participants collected much practical knowledge about nature and environmental protection work. The collaboration with the native population is an important part of the camp. Through the direct contact with conservationists on location, the volunteers could enrich their experiences and expand their language skills.

St Lucia Lake, South Africa

The St Lucia Lake lies in the middle of the iSimangaliso Wetland Parks (formerly Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park) on the east coast of the South African province of KwaZulu-Natal. This is Africa's oldest biological reserve. In 1999 it was named a UNESCO World Heritage site. The camp participants supported the conservationists from the Wildlands Conservation Trust and the National Park rangers in the counting of wild animals in the uMkhuze animal reserve. They also informed themselves about the leopard protection programme which will be started in 2009 with the help of camera traps. Just like in previous years, the camp was particularly fascinating for the participants.

Pulicat Lake, India

Lake Pulicat is the second largest brackish water lagoon on the east coast of India, about 60 kilometres north of Chennai. The lagoon is home to countless species of fish, diverse land and water birds and a plethora of mammals and reptiles. The region was hit by the tsunami in 2004. Today, the conservationists have big problems trying to protect the natural environment from construction. The camp participants supported our partner organisation CRENIEO in their work in planting mangrove forests. The volunteers also helped repair the water canal system which is used as protection against flooding during monsoon rains.

Erster Einsatzort der Freiwilligen im Nature Summer Camp in Südafrika war das Küstenwald-Reservat Lala Nek im „iSimangaliso Wetland Park“.



Die Teilnehmer des Nature Summer Camps in Indien helfen bei der Wiederaufforstung von Mangroven.



5 Sponsored Projects

Kids for the Dolphins

Dolphins have always been fascinating to people. These elegant creatures are ambassadors between Indonesia and Germany in a GNF project with the Überlingen Constantin-Vanotti School. The Mahakam wetlands on the Indonesian part of the island Borneo were named "Threatened Lake of the Year" in 2008. The protection of the extremely endangered Irrawaddy dolphin is a central goal of our Indonesian partner organisation YK-RASI. An environmental education program for children and young people is also part of their programme. The GNF; with the support of the Ursula Merz Foundation, created an environmental education programme for German and Indonesian schools which puts the dolphin and its natural habitat in the spotlight and examines both from different economic, ecological and social points of view. The students are offered the opportunity to help in the protection of this snub-nosed freshwater dolphin.

Dr. Danielle Krebs, scientific programme consultant, and Budiono, director of YK-RASI, visited the Global Studies class of the Überlingen Constantin-Vanotti School in September 2008. In the course of the school year, 32 students planned and executed concepts for films, experiment boxes and thematic textbooks for the Indonesian partner schools.

Schüler vom Bodensee setzen sich für den Schutz der bedrohten Irrawaddy-Delfine in Indonesien ein.



Sponsored Projects

The support of concrete environmental projects is a central aspect of Living Lakes and the "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 conservation projects to aid in the protection of the environment and nature. The development funds are mostly acquired through donations. Through the vital help of our contributors, diverse projects in Brazil, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Spain, India and Sri Lanka could be implemented.

Drinking Water Project at Lake Victoria

Like many other countries in Africa, Kenya must deal with manifold problems: diseases, hunger, water scarcity, social unrest and corruption. Especially clean drinking water is a problem; in many regions of the country cannot be taken for granted and water born diseases such as cholera and diarrhoea are prevalent. Against this backdrop, the GNF installed a water treatment facility in the village of Tonga in Kenya. The facility was opened in January 2009 and provides clean drinking water for the 1,000 students of the St. Gabriels girls' school and the students of the affiliated boys' school. Tonga lies in a rural area not far from Lake Victoria. These remote villages in this part of Kenya have, for the most part, no connection to the power grid and often a severely limited drinking water supply. Previously, in Tonga the drinking water was taken from streams from the nearby hills and collected in a four meter tall con-

Endlich haben die Schülerinnen der St. Gabriels School in Kenia sauberes Wasser zum Trinken.



crete storage tank. The water quality and quantity is strained by goat husbandry and the lacking sanitary facilities in the surrounding villages.

The new drinking water facility is comprised of a pump with a filter and a storage tank. The water is first filtered, disinfected and then is preserved. The cleaned drinking water is then pumped into a closed tank. The growth of bacteria is hindered through this. The daily output of the system is about 1,000 litres. Since the whole region is not connected to the power grid, the facility is powered by solar energy. The technical expertise was provided free of charge by Buderus and SilverSan. The solar station for the generation of electricity was donated by SolarWorld from Bonn. The electric company Trück from the Black Forest took over the technical planning and the transport was organised by Lufthansa. The installation, maintenance and training of the technicians were completed by the Kenyan Living Lakes partner organisation Osienala. The project was realised through a contribution by the Ursula Merz Foundation. In 2008, our Kenyan partner organisation received 7,000 EUR; to which came the donation of the facility amounting to 3,000 EUR. The rest of the grant will be paid back in 2009. This project is a great example of the collaboration of multiple companies working together under the direction of the GNF. The GNF is planning the installation of further facilities in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

Solar Lamp Project at Lake Victoria

Many households located around the banks of Lake Victoria are not connected to the power grid. Because of this, kerosene is a widely used source of light. The kerosene lamps are used by the population for lighting in the house and lamps for night fishing. This is not only harmful to the health of the people

but the lake and through that the drinking water is polluted with mineral oil again and again. The GNF and its Kenyan partner organisation initiated a programme to find alternative energy sources which would replace kerosene lamps in the long term. The goal of bringing this technology in was to protect the environment and secure the existence of the people using the energy of the sun. A trial run showed that compact fluorescent lights can compete with kerosene lamps. The German company Osram pledged to create the lamps and a supply chain and constructed four solar power service stations in the pilot phase of the project in 2008. The first solar power service station, named OSRAM Energy Hub, was constructed in the village of Mbita in Kenya in April 2008. The station can charge about 250 batteries a day. The batteries can also charge cell phones and be connected to radios. In August 2008, the GNF, Osienala and Osram organised a training programme for the leaders and staff of the solar power service station in Mbita, Kenya. A second training programme was executed in Kampala and Nakifuma in Uganda in February 2008. The programme trained the workers in the technological, ecological and economic aspects of the solar lamps and solar power service stations. During the workshop the staff was introduced to the solar lamp technology and learned specialised knowledge with which they can show the users how to properly use the batteries and lamps. Since the fishermen's villages often lie in isolated areas around Lake Victoria, radios are generally the only source of information. For this reason, the radio programme "Radio Victoria Lake" is being used as a communication tool with which even more local communities and fishermen can be reached. Osienala visited multiple fishery cooperatives in order to make them aware of the new technology.

Die neue Trinkwasserreinigungsanlage im kenianischen Dorf Tonga wird mit Solarenergie betrieben.



„Umeme kwa Wote“ (Licht für alle) steht auf der ersten solarbetriebenen Energietankstelle im Dorf Mbita am Viktoriasee.



This project, „Support of Sustainable Fishing through the Introduction of Renewable Energy for Fishermen at Lake Victoria” is supported by the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, Energy GmbH, in context of the WISIONS-SEPS programme.

Dolphin Protection at Mahakam Wetlands, Indonesia

The GNF has supported the environmental protection organisation Yayasan Konservasi RASI with the protection of the Mahakam wetlands in Indonesian since 2006. In 2008, the GNF named the wetlands as the “Threatened Lake of the Year.” The focal point of the organisation lies in saving the endangered Irrawaddy dolphin. Only about 70- 90 dolphins still live in the 4,000 square kilometres large region in east Kalimantan. There the dolphins live in the fresh water of the Mahakam River and in a few of the tributaries. During the rainy season, the dolphins use the relatively shallow floodplains. Adult Irrawaddy dolphins are between 2 and 2.8 meters long and 90-150 kilogrammes heavy.

In order to secure the lives of the dolphins, sanctuaries must be created and sustainable fishing techniques must be developed. One of the planned sanctuaries is located in the West Kutai region and is about 115 kilometres big. 70 kilometres of this are part of the Mahakam River and the other 45 are surrounding tributaries and wetlands which will provide the amount of fish necessary for the survival of the dolphin. YK-RASI developed the concept for the creation of the new sanctuary and lobbied successfully for its implementation. The official recognition of these areas as a sanctuary will take place in the course of 2009. It is also important that the measures are supported by the local population. In a 2008 poll of the local population by YK-RASI, 96

percent of the largely from fishing living population, stated that they support the creation of the sanctuary and the accompanying regulations. Because of the overwhelming support of the local population, YK-RASI suggested that another sanctuary, this one 60 kilometres long, be created in central Kutai. This suggestion was submitted to the local environmental agency and positively received.

Workshops were held for students and teachers in the Mahakam region, which conveyed practical knowledge about environmental protection. Specially created textbooks were approved by communal education departments and are being printed. They will be distributed to 25 schools in the region. The projects in 2008 for the protection of the Irrawaddy dolphin and environmental education were supported by the Ursula Merz Foundation with 24,000 EUR and will continue in 2009.

The tireless engagement of YK-RASI is providing for the protection of these rare mammals. Thanks to the campaign, two dolphins could be rescued from nets last year and no dead dolphin was reported. YK-RASI has also expanded its environmental education programme in the last year.

Besides the protection of various species, a second focus in the Mahakam area is climate change. The growing demand for raw materials leads, in Indonesia, to deforestation, slash and burn tactics and the drainage of water bodies. Entire forests are being destroyed for palm oil plantations, bio fuels, cosmetics and food stuffs. Almost 90 percent of the original swamps and peat forests have already been destroyed which has meant a huge release of gases harmful to the climate. RASI created a special programme from the Mahakam region in 2008. Together with the local population, wetland areas will be leased for 30 years. A mixture of trees will be planted on these areas. With the reforestation, CO2 sinks will

The tireless work of YK-RASI brings concrete successes for the protection of this snub-nosed mammal.



Sanctuaries are being erected and sustainable fishing techniques are being developed.



be created. Also, the planting of indigenous trees whose fruits can be picked, will offer a new income opportunity. The preparations and a study about the project were financed through 12,000 EUR from Sika and through private donations.

Lake Baikal, Russia

Two projects of the Living Lakes partner organisation FIRN were supported in 2008 at the deepest lake in the world.

Environmental Education Programme in the Barguzin Valley

The environmental education programme at the Barguzin River, a tributary of Lake Baikal, was started in 2007. The Anton Ehrmann Foundation supported this project with 25,000 EUR. Economic underdevelopment and missing environmental education were investigated in studies and through surveys and discussed with the local government and interested parties. One of the focal points of the project in 2008 was the boosting of the sustainable development of the Barguzin Valley through collaboration with young people in various environmental programmes. A close cooperation between FIRN and the travel agency Firn Travel, multiple educational establishments, the local government, environmental organisations and the media was very important for the realisation of this project

In July 2008, an environmental camp for 20 young people from the Barguzin Valley took place. At the forefront of the camp were the measures for the protection of the Garga Ravine, which is one of the most important habitats of the region, in collaboration with the local population. In addition, seminars about eco-tourism, alternative energy and work in the nature reserves were offered and 30 young people from

the villages at the Barguzin River took part. More than 100 students from the Barguzin region helped in a rubbish collecting operation along the main streets in Talmit. In the context of an expedition in August 2008, valuable video footage for a film titled, "Barguzin Valley- Heritage of the Holy Land at the Baikal" was collected. The film shows the unique natural treasures from the Barguzin valley and the cultural diversity of the ethnic people; Ewenks, Burjats and Russians. A project website is being created and the opening of an information centre in the Barguzin Valley is also planned.

Protection of the Baikal Seal

The second project at Lake Baikal is devoted to the protection of the Baikal seal. In 2008, through the support of the EthikBank, the GNF was able to raise 6,000 EUR for the protection of the freshwater seal; Nerpa in Russian (*Phoca Sibirica*). A travelling exhibition named "Nerpa in Focus" was presented in the natural history museum in Ulan Ude. The exhibit uses materials from the Zabaikalsky Nationalpark, the Baikal Institute for Limnology, FIRN and different environmental centres in Ulan Ude. Artistic contributions were collected from a contest during the "Nerpa Festival" in Ulan Ude. More than 120 artists participated in this festival in the natural history museum. The meeting offered a platform for the exchange of experiences concerning seal protection. FIRN took part in the exposition for sustainable tourism at the travelling pavilion in Stuttgart in January 2008 and presented a slide show which promoted eco-tourism at Lake Baikal. In April, 15 travel agents from Buryatia, Irkutsk and other regions took part in a three day photo tour in the Zabaikalsky National Park. During this, new camouflaged sleds could be tested that are meant to hinder the disturbance of

One of a kind nature in the Barguzin Valley.



The environmental education camp brings together young people from the entire Lake Baikal Region



the Baikal seals through photographers and visitors. Manifold activities focusing on seal protection and eco-tourism are planned for 2009.

Post-Tsunami Project in Sri Lanka

In 2008, the comprehensive Post-Tsunami project in Sri Lanka was completed. The project involved multiple local partners and was coordinated by the GNF. At the closing conference on the 17-21 of November, 2008, a successful ending could be proclaimed. The project, started in December 2005, demonstrated that donations reach the people that need them while also aiding in environmental protection. The focus of the three year long project was the conservation and renaturation of mangrove forests in the regions around the Madampe, Maduganga and Bolgoda Lakes. Besides coral reefs and tropic rainforests, mangrove forests are the most productive and valuable ecosystems in the world, while also being one of the most endangered. About 50% of the naturally occurring mangroves have already been irreversibly destroyed. Intact mangrove forests and the planting of new mangroves secure a naturally occurring protection for people. Through this, the effects of tidal waves and climate caused catastrophes are dramatically reduced. In thirty newly established mangrove nurseries around the Madampe, Maduganga and Bolgoda lakes, over 100,000 mangrove trees were grown and resettled. Courses are being offered in traditional handiwork techniques in 2 newly constructed environmental education centres which offer people new income opportunities. The first brackish water aquarium in Sri Lanka is one of the attractions of the centre. The waste water from the centre is cleaned through a plant filter. The technology was already successfully implemented in the Domini-

can Republic and Spain by our partner organisation Fundación Global Nature and is being used for the first time in Sri Lanka. Over 100 fishermen have received new nets, boats and solar lamps which replace the polluting petroleum lamps.

In total, the project was funded with over 700,000 EUR. The Serendib Foundation, the Ursula Merz Foundation, the Swiss company Sika and private donors were the main supporters. The main part of the sponsorship stem from the Eco-Asia Programme of the European Union. The GNF will continue the project with slightly altered focal points like solar lamps and land purchase and must secure the funding for the coming years. Since the problems in the lake regions of Sri Lanka and India are very similar, the Pulicat region in south India was intensively included in the project. The Indian partner organisation, CReNIEO took part in all project meetings and conferences in order to exchange ideas and discuss transferability. At the end of 2008, multiple environmental education initiatives took place. In India the building of tree nurseries, education centres and environmental laboratories in school are planned for 2009.

The building of the second environmental education centre and the installation of green filter for the sewage were successfully completed in 2008.



The students were excited by the idea of a drawing competition.



Mangrove Protection at Lake Pulicat , India

Lake Pulicat lies on the south eastern coast of India. Its lagoons are home to 103 fish species, 30 different land and water birds and a plethora of small mammals and reptiles. Pollution through pesticides, waste water, agricultural chemicals and industrial waste are the greatest dangers to the water quality of the lagoon. GNF's partner is CReNIEO (Centre for Research on New International Economic Order). The organisation works predominantly with the underrepresented social groups of Indian society such as women. The focal points of the projects are sustainable management and the protection of the Pulicat Lake.

In December 2008, CReNIEO and GNF started a new project at Lake Pulicat with the support of the Hand in Hand Fund of Rapunzel, Sika and through private donations. The project has two focal points. Firstly, it orients itself toward the recovery of mangroves through which biological diversity will be rebuilt and the most important income source for the population, fishing, will be secured. For the renaturation of the mangroves, a small tree nursery is being built where mangrove seedlings will be cultivated. The second component stems from diverse environmental education initiatives. 20 young people will be trained to be tour guides with emphasis on history, environment and sustainable development at Lake Pulicat. Training courses for 2,000 students will take place and these students will take their newly acquired environmental knowledge to their parents who did not have the opportunity to learn to read or write.

An additional component of the comprehensive project is the conservation of the indigenous cow species through reform of the animal husbandry. CReNIEO develops and carries out seminars for

the women who tend to the animals in India. Thus cow husbandry will be improved and the cows will be better fed which will make them give milk and calves sooner. Since milk is a staple food in India, the initiative aids in safeguarding healthy child nutrition. The child mortality rate in India is still extremely high. Therefore the improvement of the hygienic conditions in the villages around the Pulicat lagoon is part of the programme. The drinking water quality must be improved and drainage systems and green filter facilities must be built. The different components of the project will be continued and expanded in 2009. In the long term, this will improve the environmental conditions and nutrition situation in a sustainable manner. The focus groups of this project are young people and poor families. Through their inclusion, the long term access of the local population to the sustainable use of natural resources is aspired to. For this interdisciplinary project, 14,000 EUR in donations from Sika and Rapunzel were made available.

Schüler helfen beim Schutz von Mangrovenwäldern am indischen Pulicat See.



In der Mangroven-Baumschule am Pulicat See in Indien werden die Samen für die Wiederanpflanzung von Mangrovenbäumen sortiert.



Miles to Help – Projects

Frequent Flier Miles for the Lakes of the World

Doing good with frequent flier miles is the motto of the "Miles to Help" initiative. In the context of Miles to Help, passengers of Lufthansa and all partner companies of the Star Alliance can donate their frequent flier miles for the environmental projects of the GNF. German Lufthansa has been a partner and sponsor of the Living Lakes Network for many years. Through the donation of miles, the following three projects were supported in 2008:

Protection of the Snow Crane at Lake Poyang in China

The Poyang Lake is the largest freshwater lake in China. It is located in the JIANGXI province, about 50 kilometres north of the city of Nanchang. The flooding area of the Poyang is subject to the seasonally determined and radically changing water level. In the dry season the area of the lake shrinks to about 1,000 square kilometres and creates a large area of mudflats. These attract over half a million water birds including remarkable kinds such as 3,500 examples of the Snow Crane (95 % of the world's population) and the White Necked Crane. During the rainy season in late summer, the lake grows to an area of almost 4,400 square kilometres.

Together with their Chinese partner MRLSD and the International Crane Foundation (ICF), the GNF launched a project for the protection of the endangered Snow Crane. Through the tagging of the birds with satellite transmitters, scientists are given important insights into their behaviour. This data is of great value to the protection of the Snow Crane. Two young cranes were tagged with satellite transmitters in the breeding grounds in Russia and followed by satellite signal on their way to the Poyang Lake in China. The project is proving to be difficult. For five weeks, with a

total of 350 hours worked, it was attempted to safely catch Cranes and fit them with transmitters. In 2009 further data about the routes of the Cranes will be collected, which will offer a valuable contribution to the research of the entire ecosystem at the Poyang Lake. The previously collected data will be added to an environmental compatibility study for the planned construction of a dam at Lake Poyang. The analysis and publication of the data collected since 1998, is planned for 2009 along with the attempt to tag more Cranes with transmitters.

Reforestation of Forests around the St Lucia Lake in South Africa

The St Lucia Lake lies in the middle of the 2,500 square kilometre large iSimangaliso Wetland Park, the oldest nature sanctuary in Africa. 180 meter high forest covered dunes divide Lake St Lucia Lake from the Indian Ocean. Rare and endangered animals such as land turtles, crocodiles and hippos live in this unique region. In the context of the "Trees for Life" project, which was developed together with the Living Lakes partner organisation Wildlands Conservation Trust, trees are planted by the indigenous population in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park and in public spaces. Included in this project are predominantly jobless young people, orphans and single parents. For these people, the so called "poorest of the poor", not only an interest in environmental topics but also a feeling for entrepreneurship is awakened. Through these help to self help initiatives, the people in the KwaZulu district receive a new income and education opportunity.

95 % der Weltpopulation der bedrohten Schneekraniche überwintern am chinesischen Poyang See.



Von den „Baumunternehmerinnen und -unternehmern“ in Südafrika werden einheimische Pflanzen kultiviert.



Ecosystem Protection in the Pantanal in Brazil

The Pantanal is the largest wetland on the planet. The landscape is shaped by the countless lakes, rivers and pooling basins which lie between the evergreen rain forests, dry forests and savannahs. 665 different bird species, 265 fish species, 123 mammal and over 1,700 plant species are the reason why the Pantanal is also called the "Garden of Eden." The Jaguar, Ozelot and Brown Caiman are among the famous residents of the area. This paradise is threatened by the dramatic destruction of rain forests and wetlands by monocultures, intensive animal husbandry, the mining of gold and diamonds and ethanol manufacture. Our partner organisation Ecotrópica is trying to bring landowners away from this destructive path and lead them to alternative paths. Ecotrópica owns, at 60,000 hectares, the largest private sanctuary in all of Brazil. With the help of the donated frequent flier miles more land will be bought and protected in the long term.

Lake Constance: Environmentally Friendly Agriculture and Sustainable Housing Development

The Lake Constance Foundation concentrated mainly on agriculture and sustainable housing development in 2008. Both belong to the greatest challenges in the region around Lake Constance. The GNF supported the Lake Constance Foundation in the realisation of projects and activities in these areas.

Honey Plants Programme at Lake Constance

Around 80 percent of our indigenous flowering plants and many cultivated plants are dependent on pollination through insects. The noticeable increase in land use worsens the living conditions and the food sources for flower visiting insects, especially honey

Agriculture and housing development are some of the biggest challenges in the Lake Constance Region



and wild bees. With the support of PLENUM western Lake Constance, Heidehof Foundation, Deutsch Umwelthilfe and GNF, an approach for the improvement of the living condition for these insects was sought. Together with local beekeeper groups, the Lake Constance Foundation organised talks with representatives from agriculture, municipalities and green area planters. In October 2008a border crossing symposium took place. The results were compiled in the Honey Plants Programme, which will be the basis for the follow up project in the coming years, "Flowering Lake Constance Network".

Lake Constance Breakfast

Together with the German Hotel and Inn Association DEHOGA, the Lake Constance Foundation was able to convince restaurateurs and hoteliers on the western shore of Lake Constance to offer a breakfast buffet with regional specialties. With their regional offerings, the innkeepers not only support environmentally friendly agriculture but also strengthen the culinary profile of the Lake Constance region. The project was supported by PLENUM Western Lake Constance and the GNF. The gift certificates which can be bought at any of the establishments of at www.bodensee-fruestueck.de are new. About 57,000 guests took advantage of the breakfast offerings in 2008.

The „Flowering Lake Constance Network“ creates a foundation for the realisation of bee friendly initiatives in the Lake Constance region.



Managing Urban Europe

Municipalities and regional governments can make a decisive contribution to the sustainable development of lake regions. Goal of a European project named "Managing Urban Europe" is the development and realisation of sustainability management for municipalities and local authorities. The Lake Constance Foundation has worked for over 3 years with the Union of Baltic Cities, ICLEI, UNEP, Grid Arendal and 24 cities and townships in Europe. The project is supported by the EU Commission, the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt and the environmental ministry for Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg, the Deutsche Umwelthilfe and the Foundation of the Landesbank Baden-Württemberg and the GNF.

The EU Commission approved a follow up project to Managing Urban Europe. The new project, titled CHAMP concentrates on offering training to interested local and regional administrations and will offer concrete suggestions in order to improve the general conditions for engaged municipalities. The results and procedure documentation of Managing Urban Europe can be found at www.mue25.net.

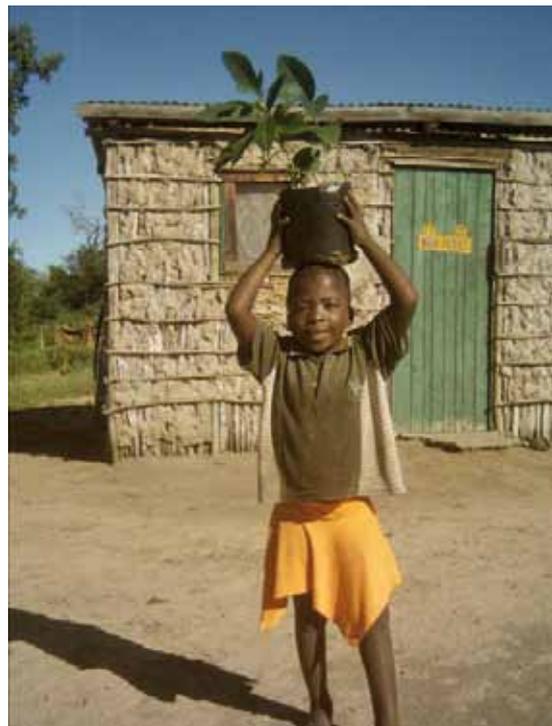
Ancona nahm am Projekt Managing Urban Europe teil.



„Trees for Life“ Project at Lake St Lucia, South Africa

In the past four years, the project has been developed in conjunction with the Living Lakes partner organisation Wildlands Conservation Trust. Focal point of the project is the reforestation of indigenous trees within the iSimangaliso Wetlands Park (Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park). Since the end of 2006, Lufthansa customers have the opportunity to donate their frequent flier miles to this Living Lakes project through the Miles to Help programme. Through a sponsorship from the Ursula Merz Foundation in 2008, the project was expanded even further. To this day over 1,350 people have been trained as "Tree Entrepreneurs" by the Wildlands Conservation Trust. They are organised into so called Green Teams and tasked with the greening of rural areas. Until now, planting initiatives have been carried out in the Esikhaweni, Khula, Sokhulu and Mbonambi communities which are characterised by unemployment and poverty. Between 300 and 1,000 trees were planted each month in public areas such as schools, halls and clinics and then tended and taken care of for twelve months after planting to ensure the survival of the trees. Foreign plants and rubbish like aluminium, bottles and paper were collected and recycled when possible.

With the project „Trees for Life“, the local population gains new prospects for the future.



In 2008, far reaching planting initiatives were carried out at the Mkhuze River and in the Ongoye Forest. The approach of help to self help creates a new income opportunity for unemployed young people and adults. The trees are raised in small tree nurseries and are bought by the Wildlands Conservation Trust for about 1 EUR or can be traded directly for items like food, bicycles or school uniforms. With this project the participants receive new prospects for the future and confidence while also making a valuable contribution to environmental protection in South Africa. Further initiatives are planned for 2009.

Conservation and Fire fighting at Pantanal, Brazil, Bolivia und Paraguay

Our Brazilian partner organisation Ecotrópica used 2008 to put their management plan into action. The organisation takes care of the private nature sanctuary in the Pantanal, the largest wetland in the world located in the heart of South America, which offers a breathtaking diversity of species. The areas lie half on the western border of the Pantanal national park (Parque Nacional do Pantanal Mato-Grossense) and half on the eastern border. Together they form the heart piece of the UNESCO world heritage site. Originally, the area was comprised of three large animal farms which were bought by Ecotrópica and converted, in steps, to sanctuaries. The project is mainly being coordinated from the erstwhile farm "Acurizal". From there, Ecotrópica staff does control runs and engages in direct conservation activities such as research, taking care of educational trails and the realisation of fire prevention measures. In 2008, with funding from the GNF, it was possible to buy new equipment and hire a new staff member who coordinates and leads practical conservation measures in Acurizal.

The financial support of the GNF/Ursula Merz Foundation was decisive for the fighting of the fires in the sanctuary in September 2008.



In Acurizal Ecotrópica also engages in conservation training for the education of environmental police from all regions of Brazil. It is gratifying that private people have also bought land in the Pantanal for the purpose of conservation. Ecotrópica regularly organises meetings which include all of the sanctuary owners in order to discuss, plan and realise joint activities. Ecotrópica's activities were also decided through the fighting of dangerous fires which hit an area of over 25,000 hectares of which 10,000 were part of the sanctuary. The fires were caused not only by negligent campers who didn't watch their campfires but also by lightning which, because of the strong winds and drought, caused an extremely quick spreading of the fire, which had not previously been seen. During the entire month of September, all available forces from Ecotrópica were engaged in fighting the fires. Through the help of the national park administration and supported by the fire-fighting planes, it was possible to contain the fire. Ecotrópica now wants to create a comprehensive fire fighting and fire prevention programme with the national park in order to be able to act more effectively against fires in the future.

Danger looms for the Pantanal and its tributaries because of the increasing demand for ethanol as an "alternative" fuel for vehicles. From a recently published study about the social, ecological and economic impacts of sugar cane farming in Brazil, comes the news that the area used to cultivate sugar cane is continually being enlarged. This translates into new risks for species diversity, water resources and air quality. Conservationists have been protesting the

Acurizal, Penha and Rumo ao Oeste protect a very rare Ecotone between the Pantanal wetlands and the Serra do Amolar.



building of ethanol factories and the growth of sugar cane cultivation for a long time. While the government in the fall of 2008 did pledge that there would be no new ethanol factories built in the Pantanal, an official ruling has not yet been made. Previously there had been talk of tripling the number of ethanol factories within the next ten years.

The GNF was able to support the most important project in the Pantanal in 2008 with over 50,000 EUR from different sources.

Living Lakes Eastern Europe Network-Germany

For three years the Living Lakes partners in Central and Eastern Europe worked closely together in a project supported by the Deutsch Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU). Goals of the project were the further education of environmental organisations, which are engaged in lake protection and the realisation of concrete model projects. In May 2008, the first phase of the DBU-supported Eastern European Living Lakes project ended.

The Lake Võrtsjärv Foundation, Living Lakes-Partner at the Võrtsjärv Lake in Estonia, initiated decisive measures for the sustainable development of tourism at Lake Võrtsjärv. In conjunction with the Lake Constance Foundation, workshops for the training of tourism experts about topics like ecological marking and environmental management were held. An environmental protection plan was developed together with the Estonian environmental ministry, which was passed in December 2007 by the environmental ministry and was coordinated with the management plan for the Natura2000 areas at Lake Võrtsjärv. In the context of the project, the Lake Võrtsjärv Foundation expanded an information centre at the banks of the lake. a new seminar room and an exhibition about the lake and its purpose as an ecosystem

along with an aquarium with local fish were installed. Over 5,000 visitors came to the information centre and more than 3,000 tourists sailed on the traditional fishing boat "Paula".

The number of visitors to the region was raised from 5,000 in 2005 to 35,000 in 2007. An as yet unresolved conflict is the water level of the Võrtsjärv Lake. The fishermen are demanding the damming of the Emajõgi River in order to raise the water level of the lake. The environmental protection agencies are against the artificial regulation.

Peipsi Centre for Transboundary Cooperation also realised multiple measures at Lake Peipsi, the fourth largest lake in Europe. The Peipsi Lake belongs to Estonia and Russia which is why border crossing cooperation is especially important for the protection of the lake. The training programmes for tourism companies surrounding criteria concerning nature tourism, environmental quality and environmental markets were very well attended. New guidelines provide criteria for nature tourism and offer interesting real life examples. The bird perspective over the Emajõgi multimedia programme, which is a river that connects the Võrtsjärv and the Peipsi Lake, was also well received. The programme offers a good overview of the natural and cultural particularities of the river and is also available in English on CD.

The Living Lakes partner organisation Lake Balaton Development Coordinating Agency (LBDCA) in Hungary coordinated the 68 neighbouring communities around Lake Balaton and is responsible for the realisation of the regional development plan, which also establishes measures for the protection of Lake Balaton. LDDCA is part of the European initiative "Managing Urban Europe - Communal Sustainability Management" and implemented the European environmental management system EMAS in those three years. Beyond that, LBDCA also oversees the two largest communities Siofók and Balatonfüred,

Eine Fahrt mit dem traditionellen Fischerboot „Paula“ über den estnischen Võrtsjärv See ist für Besucher eine besondere Attraktion.



Das neue Besucherzentrum am Võrtsjärv See in Estland bietet Spannendes zu entdecken für die ganz Familie.



which have also initiated EMAS on the local level. LBDCA offers a variety of information events for all communities around the lake and is currently working on making at least 10 further communities adopt an environmental management programme by 2011. The long term goal is introduce an environmental management system in all municipalities in the Lake Balaton region. In conjunction with this, the cooperation with the „Lake Balaton Limnological Institute“, the „Balaton Uplands National Park“ and the „Association of Civil Organisations“ was intensified.

Pro Natura Poland, Living Lakes-Partner at the Milicz Ponds, has concentrated its activities on the sustainable development of tourism and fishing. A zoning plan for tourist activities was developed and integrated into the Natura2000 management plan. In the framework of these activities, a 60 kilometre long kayak educational trail , a 160 kilometre long horse riding path and an over 200 kilometre long bike trail were created. Information plaques and observation towers were erected. The regional “Carp Days” which are meant to promote carp breeding were a great success. Pro Natura Poland organised workshops for tourism promoters about topics such as the arrangement of tourism products and marketing aspects. Intensive work was also done with the fishermen and a concept for a regional brand named “Dolina Baryczy poleca” for fish products was developed. Beyond that, environmental training modules for fishermen who wanted a second income as a nature guide were offered.

A programme for the improvement of bird habitats is another important aspect of the work in Poland. The programme was developed together with Breslau University and also includes the management of reeds which is meant to prevent the ponds from becoming overgrown.

Neben der Lavendelblüte bietet die Tihany Halbinsel im ungarischen Plattensee auch zahlreiche historische Denkmäler und Naturschätze.



The Living Lakes partners in Estonia, Hungary and Poland were intensively advised about the realisation of the project measures by the **GNF and the Bodensee-Stiftung**. The results and experiences from the project as well as information to the EU regulations in the areas of tourism, fishing and environmental protection were summarised in a document, which is available in English, Hungarian and Estonian. The results and the next steps were discussed at length during the Living Lakes Eastern Europe conference in Estonia in February 2008 which NGOs from various Central and Eastern European countries took part in.

Even though the partners, as well as the GNF, found the results of the collective work very positive, it became clear that three years was too short a time period for almost all of the projects in the context of sustainable development. It is now necessary to deepen the work in the chosen areas and to expand into new areas. This is why it is a goal of the GNF to find new financing opportunities in order to continue and expand the Living Lakes Network in Central and Eastern Europe.

Peace Park at The Dead Sea, Israel, Jordan, Palestine

The Dead Sea is located 417 meters below sea level. Its shores are the lowest naturally occurring land masses in the world. Except for some algae and bacteria in the mouth of the river, the water of the Dead Sea is without life because it is ten times more salty than ocean water. In the mountains surrounding the Dead Sea, in oases, in swamps and in the streams, which occasionally have running water, there live many animals and plants which have evolved to fit the environment including leopards, stone ibex and Eurasian griffons. The Jordan Valley is an important station on the migratory route from the nesting grounds in North and Eastern Europe to Africa of the

Schüler helfen den Partnern von FoEME am Toten Meer bei der Aufforstung eines „Friedensparks“.



white and black storks and many other bird species. The immense amount of water taken from the Jordan River is causing the Dead Sea to shrink dramatically. In the last 30 years, the water level has dropped by 25 metres. Because of this deep cracks occur at the shore and even kilometres away in the soil, which endanger people and animals. In order to bring water back to the salt lake, politicians support a canal from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea. Environmental protectionists are very critical of this idea, because the consequences have not been investigated and the intense taking of water from the Jordan River would never be stopped in this way.

Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME), an Israeli environmental association, has been carrying out environmental and water projects in order to improve the dramatic circumstances at the Dead Sea. In order to stop the desertification, a "Peace Park" is being created in the Jordan Sheik-Hussein. In the Israeli Ein-Gedi a dry toilet project was started. Here students learn to use the precious water in a frugal way and how to protect water sources and ground water. An ecological education centre is being built in the Palestinian Auja. We are also advocating with FoEME for the repair of water pipes, the fair distribution of water and the renaturation of the Jordan River. The GNF has supported these activities with 12,000 EUR so far. Further support is planned.

Conservation of Cultural Landscapes

Extremadura, Spain

The Dehesas in the Extremadura, in the southwest of Spain, are extremely important for wild animals and the old Spanish farm animals. The traditional cultural landscape offers pasture land and diverse habitats for wild animals. The conservation of this one of a kind landscape and the sustainable development of not only agriculture but also the tourism sector are the main goals of the Spanish Organisation Fundación Global Nature (FGN). In 2008, the FGN received 6,000 EUR from the GNF for this work. In 2008 1,420 people visited the "La Dehesa" conservation centre in Torrejon el Rubio. Young people from around Europe met here for international seminars in the context of European exchange programmes and volunteer work. In total, 33 groups took part in guided excursions in the Monfragüe national park. For two weekends in October 2008, the Extremadura was host to a group of 49 people from different Spanish organisations and companies in the context of the Environmental Volunteer Programme. A regionally typical house was erected and made open to the public in order to demonstrate how the local population lived 100 years ago. In total, 268 school children from 5 schools took part in various environmental education programme in the Extremadura. The network for the rural development in the Extremadura (REDEX) has developed a water project, which will be realised by FGN. The most important goal of the project is informing children and young people about how to use water in a frugal manner.

Junge Freiwillige aus israelischen, palästinensischen und jordanischen Gemeinden am Toten Meer planen gemeinsam die Konzepte für ökologische Gärten.



Eine Schulklasse besucht das Vogel-Schutzgebiet Albufera



6 Public Relations Work

A joint travelling exhibit about the natural treasures of the two sanctuaries in Spain and Paraguay and the as yet unresolved problems and difficulties in protecting both areas was created in cooperation with the Fundación Moisés Bertoni in Paraguay. The protection of wild animals is intrinsically linked to the protection of adequate habitats. In order to not be confined in the protection of animal and plant species to the state reservations and private sanctuaries, FGN has developed an environmental programme for private landowners. The ecological improvement of the area is meant to aid in the protection of endangered species and the boosting of their numbers. The goal is to gain at least 2,000 hectares of private land for environmental protection.

The "Cultural Landscapes" annual report can be requested from the GNF.



Majorca and the Balearic Islands

The environmental association GOB- Grup Balear d'Ornitologia i Defensa de la Naturalesa- has involved itself for many years in the conservation of the unique natural world of the Balearic Islands. Especially in Majorca, because of the massive tourism industry on the island, it is incredibly important to protect the traditional cultural landscapes and its unique natural world from destruction. In the spotlight of the diverse work, which the GOB does, was not only the classic nature and species protection but also the fight against corruption on Majorca. On the former farm (Finca) La Trapa, which the GOB bought in 1980, a new area of 75 hectares has been set aside for environmental projects and almond and olive trees along with holm oaks and Aleppo pines were planted. Education campaigns for the prevention of forest fires are another task of the GOB. In 2008, over 10,000 students took part in environmental education activities like beach cleaning actions

Auch außerhalb der Schutzgebiete gibt es wichtige Lebensräume, die vor der Zerstörung gerettet werden müssen



near the Finca Son Real or in the Bay of Alcudia. In 2008, a campaign for the designation of bird sanctuaries and against the expansion of hunting was the centre of attention. The GOB was supported in this by a committee against bird murder in Bonn. The GOB is also fighting against the expansion of the port of Palma and the building of a new golf courses on the islands.

A big sensation in 2008 was the sudden appearance of a Mediterranean monk seal in the waters off the coast of Majorca. A diver was able to photograph the animal in a cave. The monk seal belongs to the rarest of all marine mammals in the world. At the moment a flier is being created and distributed with the help of the GOB, which calls on tourists and residents to inform the authorities immediately if any seals are sighted. A multi-year education campaign for the protection of whales and dolphins in the waters of the Balearic Islands was expanded and will continue.

Public Relations Work

In 2008, the GNF once again reported regularly about projects and progress dealing with Living Lakes. The *Threatened Lake of the Year*, *10 Years "Living Lakes"* and the environmental award "*Trophée de Femmes*", which our president Marion Hammerl received, were the focus of the communication. The GNF newsletter available in English and German informs supporters and project partners every quarter year of the newest developments. The annual reports to Living Lakes and Cultural Landscapes were distributed to donors and supporters. Four mailings reported of new projects in the network. In the anniversary year of 2008, the GNF also published a booklet in English in which the success story of the 10 years of the Living Lakes Network was documented. The GNF also published over 20 press releases on a

Unverbaute Küstenabschnitte wie hier gibt es auf Mallorca nur noch wenige.



national and international level about the activities of the Living Lakes network.

Mahakam Wetland in Indonesia is the “Threatened Lake of the Year 2008”

The Indonesian wetland Mahakam was named “Threatened Lake of the Year 2008” on February 2, the Day of Wetlands. Devastating forest fires and excessive deforestation in the southern part of the Indonesian island of Borneo along with large scale palm oil monocultures and mining are affecting the basis of life for the local population. The habitats of extremely endangered species such as the Irrawaddy Dolphin or the Orangutan are continually being destroyed. Together with the Indonesian partner organisation RASI, the GNF wants to establish a sanctuary for the Irrawaddy Dolphin, promote eco-tourism and support fishermen families.

The middle Mahakam region encompasses three larger and 30 smaller lakes along with large scale peat and fresh water moors. The whole area is an important drinking water reservoir with an abundance of fish while also playing an important role as a transportation network. According to reports from Dr. Danielle Krebs, scientific staff member of RASI, 90 % of the original swamp and moor forests in the largest wetlands of Kalimantan have already been destroyed.

Habitats of extremely endangered species like the Irrawaddy-Delfin or the Orang-Utan in Indonesia are continually being destroyed.



Awards

Trophée des Femmes Award for GNF President

Every year the Yves Rocher Foundation honours women for their commitment to environmental protection. In 2002 the “Trophée des Femmes” environmental award was created. This award is now being awarded in nine European countries as well as Russia and Canada. In March 2008, Marion Hammerl received the international environmental award “Trophée des Femmes” for her worldwide work for the protection of lakes and wetlands. Three weeks previously she was awarded the national environmental award of the Yves Rocher Foundation in Stuttgart. The jury recognised her honorary commitment for lake and water protection on a global and local scale. The awards were coupled with a 10,000 EUR prize, which Marion Hammerl donated to Living Lakes. Jacques Rocher, president of the environmental foundation, visited Lake Constance in September 2008 to learn more about the projects of the Lake Constance Foundation and the GNF.

Awards for Living Lakes Partners in the Middle East and Asia

In September 2008, Gidon Bromberg, Nader Al-Khateeb and Munqeth Mehyar, the executive directors of FoEME were named Heroes of the Environment by TIME Magazine. The three environmental activists were honoured for their long lasting joint engagement for peace and environment in Israel, Jordan and Palestine.

Lal Emmanuel from Sri Lanka is the winner of the first international One World Award. Emmanuel is president of the Nagenahiru Foundation, founded in 1991, and member of the Living Lakes Network since 2002.

For her commitment to environmental protection, Marion Hammerl was awarded the “Trophée des Femmes” environmental award.



Media Work

Press Voices

The GNF's intensive public relations work has been worthwhile: national and international media like the ARD, Social Times, Stuttgarter Zeitung, taz and Die Welt reported about the ongoing activities of the GNF.

ARD: February 5, 2008. News Knowledge Environment - Threatened Lake of the Year 2008 - Global Nature Fund, the international environmental foundation, has declared the Indonesian Mahakam Wetlands to be the threatened lake of the year 2008 [...]

Social Times: February 13, 2008. Through South East Asia by Rickshaw. Thomas Bauer [...] is biking on a rickshaw straight through South East Asia. On his trip [...] he is visiting potential new partners for the international lake network "Living Lakes" [...]

Stuttgarter Zeitung: February 29, 2008. How Lakes are becoming fit for the future. [...] An example is the Eastern European Lakes Network; a project which is being masterminded by the Living Lakes Foundation based at Lake Constance. [...]

taz: April 4, 2008. "Uneme kwa Wote"- Light for All [...] The idea is genius: fishermen which had previously used expensive and environmentally harmful kerosene lamps to lure fish in at night on the lake, can now use an energy saving lamp powered by solar energy on their boats [...]

Für Sie: May 2008. Women fight for nature [...] Marion Hammerl's project, "Living Lakes," met with great acclaim from the jury in Paris and received first place at the competition and, out of eleven countries, also received the international first prize.



Die Welt: July 18, 2008. The Swabian clean lake [...] For the in Germany based international environmental Foundation Global Nature Fund (GNF), Lake Constance is a prime example for the sanitation of a large body of water.

Internet

The www.globalnature.org website offers information about current projects, activities and events of the GNF. About 42,000 interested people visit the site each month, which offers a wide range of information in German, English, Spanish and Russian. Besides the detailed information about the GNF's projects, every partner organisation and every partner lake of the Living Lakes network is extensively introduced. All publications such as the annual report, newsletter and conference documents can be found under the "Publications" rubric and can be downloaded directly.

Partners from the Business Sector

Almost every form of economic activity makes an impact on our environment and nature. The consequences of entrepreneurial activity are almost always negative in this relationship. Problems created by unsustainable economic activities such as global warming and species extinction endanger us and our planet in an as before unseen way. Especially in countries with a rich diversity of species such as Indonesia and Brazil, natural habitats are disappearing at an alarming rate to make room for things like soy fields and palm oil plantations. Because of this, more and more species are disappearing from our planet and the rate of extinction is continually increasing. On the other hand, almost half of the world's economy is based on natural resources and biological processes and so is coupled directly to an intact environment and stable ecosystems. Next to businesses in the natural resources industry, which are very obviously having direct impacts on the ecosystem, many companies in the tourism, fishing, paper and food industries are directly reliant on intact ecosystems. Many companies, in the context of risk management and safeguarding the future, are more closely tied to these topics than they are aware of.

The globally active company **Sika AG**, with its seat in Switzerland, has supported the Living Lakes since 2005. The responsibility for the environment and safety is an integrated part of every executive function and behavioural orientation for all staff members. The company aims for the reduction and limitation of unavoidable risks along the lines of the founding principles of economic reasonableness, the level of safety technology and ones own experiences. The focal points of the projects of the GNF which Sika supported in 2008 were in Kenya, Columbia, Indonesia and India. The Sika staff members also volunteered for the Nature Summer Camps.

The **Deutsche Lufthansa AG** has supported the GNF and Living Lakes since the beginning. Environmental responsibility is a tradition at Lufthansa and is also a primary company goal. Environmental protection is not an entity completely separated from other goals but is an integral part of the strategic principles of the corporation. Starting in 1996, the board of directors introduced guidelines for environmental precautions for all parts of the company. Lufthansa was a pioneer in the airline business with this measure. The guidelines, which are binding to all staff members and places of business, are meant to ensure that all Lufthansa corporations pursue the common goal of environmental protection and continually improve their own environmental responsibility. Members of the Lufthansa staff have volunteered for many years in the Nature Summer Camps project. In the context of the "Miles to Help" programme; started by Lufthansa in 2006, 15 millions frequent flier miles were donated for three environmental and species protection programmes run by the GNF in South Africa, Brazil and China.

The **Daimler AG** has sponsored GNF for the past ten years through support for the Living Lakes Network. Economically as well as socially and ecologically responsible actions are an integral part of the company's policies. Besides environmental and conservation projects, Daimler has supported for years many actions and campaigns in various fields such as education, art, culture as well as climate protection and fight against poverty. Daimler sponsors GNF's work through financial support and joint projects for the protection of the environment and nature. Staff members of Daimler have volunteered in the past years at the nature summer camps.

The Ludwigsburg **Ziemann GmbH** has supported the international Living Lakes Network since 2002. Ziemann is one of the world's biggest manufacturers of brewery machinery and so logically water protection and the conservation of a clean environment is a top priority. Clean water is not only the basis of

all life but also the most important element of beer. Ziemann is actively working together with the leading filtration specialists to create an innovative and reliable filtration solution.. Ziemann staff has also been volunteering for years at the Nature Summer Camps.

The **Osram GmbH** is one of the world's largest manufacturers of energy efficient lamps and light systems. The reduction of CO2 emissions in order to conserve the environment as a living space for future generations is a goal of the company. Osram involves itself around the world in the development aid, education and art sectors and has supported the GNF and the Living Lakes Network since 2007. Osram and GNF are working together at Lake Victoria in Kenya and Uganda to realise a project which promotes solar lamp systems as an alternative to environmentally harmful kerosene lamps.

The Ethikbank, the GLS-Gemeinschaftsbank and the HypoVereinsbank are members of the banking sector who are also counted as supporters of the GNF. The **Ethikbank** has involved itself financially and through its website for many years in the protection of the Baikal Seal at the Russian Lake Baikal. The **GLS-Gemeinschaftsbank** offers savings accounts and savings bonds under the heading "Living Lakes Project Savings" through which the interest accumulated is donated to projects of the GNF. The **HypoVereinsbank** supported the Living Lakes project in 2007 and 2008 with a generous Christmas donation.

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 **Stiftung Internationale Begegnung of the Sparkasse Bonn**, the **Wuppertal Institut (WISIONS)**, the **Landesstiftung Baden-Württemberg** and the **City of Friedrichshafen** supported the numerous and diverse projects and activities of GNF. The **Anton Ehrmann Foundation** supported projects at Lake Baikal. The **Serendib Foundation** supported the three year long post tsunami project in Sri Lanka. The **Ursula Merz Foundation** once again lent its support to multiple different GNF projects in 2008. The GNF's media partner is the environmental magazine **natur+kosmos**, which regularly reports on interesting GNF projects.

9

Project Financing

In 2004, the GNF signed a cooperation agreement with the administration of the **Ramsar Convention** (Convention for the Protection of Wetlands), which is meant to promote the international cooperation between wetlands protected by both organisations. A similar partnership exists with the administration of the Bonn Convention for the protection of species of the **UNEP/CMS**. Living Lakes was again credited by **UNESCO** as an official decade project "Education for Sustainable Development" for the years 2008 and 2009. The GNF is also connected to other environmental protection organisations in particular the **Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V.** (DUH) through year long collaboration. The GNF again received a grant from the DUH in 2008 for the organisation and coordination of the international Living Lakes network.

Project Financing

Despite being a foundation, the GNF does not have a large capital income to fall back on and must acquire the necessary funds continuously. This occurs mainly through different project proposals to institutions which offer financial support along with regular requests for donations and allocations of funds. Beyond this, partners from the economic sector are important supporters not only of the different projects but also of the necessary administrative work for the Living Lakes Network. The development of the financing has shifted in the past years from a few, large sponsors to a larger number of financial supporters thus the financial situation is no longer dependent on a few sources and therefore there is a minimisation of risk if one source should stop providing. On top of this, the larger proportion of business partners and supporting institutions is a good indication that the goals and projects of the GNF are being well received and valued in a broader arena.

Donations

The GNF asked for donations for the following projects through a series of Mailings in 2008: "Species and Climate Protection in Mahakam", "Light for all at Lake Victoria", "Pulicat Lagoon in India", and "Water Emergency in the Holy Land - Protect Nature and Promote Peace". The multitude of small and large donations, the sponsorships and the supporters make it possible for the GNF to support and realise a multitude of different projects. Oftentimes, only through donations is it possible to gather the necessary contribution for a project with an extra source of financing from a third party. For this all of the Living Lakes partners are very grateful to the people who donate to the GNF.

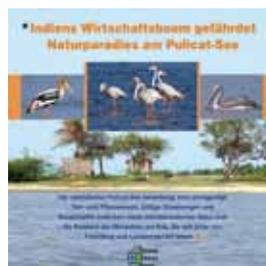
For the past two years the state has also expanded tax exemptions for donors and sponsors in order to bring to the forefront the socio-political meaning of this work.

Last Will, Project savings and Endowment Contributions

One way to support the GNF and its projects in a long term manner is to include the organisation in the last will and testament. The lawmakers have made it so that money given to charitable organisations is now tax exempt, which means that the organisation does not have to pay inheritance tax.

How a directive because of death can be created is explained, for free, in our **Testament Guidebook**. The recently occurring legal changes will be worked into the Guidebook in 2009.

Another option is offered through the GNF's house bank, the GLS-Gemeinschaftsbank. Here it is possible to create a contract for certain projects and with this the yearly interest and/or later the entire capital investment can be credited to the GNF.



10 Outline 2009

Gifts or Donations to the endowment funds of the GNF are another tax beneficial possibility. Creating a depended foundation, which would be administered by the GNF and would aid certain projects, is another alternative. Here a donor can immortalise his name for a good cause. The GNF staff is here to help with any and all questions.

Allocations

The request for allocations from monetary fines out of summary proceedings in German courts and public prosecution offices is another financing option for charitable organisations. This has been restricted a great deal in the last few years because a large part of the money now flows back into the court cashier. This development is very regrettable as thus an important financial basis which charitable organisations need is taken away. How this is going to play out in economically worse times, during which environmental and nature protection are often the first to be cut from the budget, will be seen.

Donations in Kind

Donations in kind can help the GNF and its project partners to work in a more cost efficient manner. Equipment like computers, binoculars, cameras and other items as well as parts for solar facilities and drinking water treatment are all part of these donations. Necessary project visits are made possible through the furnishing of free airline tickets by the Lufthansa AG. Even the waiving of expenditures such as travel costs, repair costs, signs, print or graphic work are part of it.

The free publication of articles, for instance in the environmental magazine natur+kosmos, along with the printing of free adverts, helps the GNF to save money. It also lends itself to the goal of bringing information to the public.

Outline 2009

Along with the continuation and initiation of environmental protection projects and campaigns, the GNF is planning many events and activities for 2009.

Baikal Conference

The German-Russian conference, "Living Lakes - Ten Year Partnership at Lake Baikal: Opportunities and Challenges for a Safeguarded Future for People and Lake" will take place in August at Ulan-Ude in the Republic of Buryatia. The conference offers a platform for the exchange of experiences between German, Russian and international experts about the sustainable development of lake regions. The focal point of the event will be the evaluation of past experiences and the planning of future environmental protection efforts in the Baikal region. The conference will bring together over 100 German, Russian and other international experts as well as numerous participants from the entire lake Baikal region.

Im August 2009 treffen sich russische und deutsche Experten auf der Konferenz „Living Lakes – Zehn Jahre Partnerschaft am Baikalsee“



“Lakes for Living, Lakes for Life” Conference

“Lakes for Living, Lakes for Life” - the first conference held in Great Britain - invites participants to take part in discussions focusing around the collaborative work of companies and society in the environmental and lake protection sectors. The conference will take place from May 18- 21, 2009 at Lake Windermere, England. The hosts are the GNF- Partner Environment Agency and the Lake District National Park. The conference is not just bringing together partners from the Living Lakes Network but will also serve as a platform for an international discussion which other renowned organisations like the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) in the USA und Canada, British Alliances Natural England, National Trust, RSPB and Forestry Commission will take part in. The goal of the event is the exchange of experiences, presentation of new initiatives for the protection of the most sensitive British landscapes along with the creation of an international dialogue between businesses and environmental agencies for the conservation of lake regions. More information can be found at: <http://www.lakesforliving.com/index.htm>

Events with the Theme “Business and Biodiversity”

With the slogan, “Take Responsibility- Manage Responsibly“, representatives from business, politics, NGOs and science sectors are meeting on April 27-28 in Stuttgart for one of the largest CSR events in Germany. CSR - Corporate Social Responsibility

- characterises a company’s perception of its social and ecological responsibility. The GNF was invited by the host dokeo GmbH to organise a workshop titled, “Business and Biodiversity.”

The GNF is hosting a one day long seminar on the meaning of biological diversity for the financial sector in conjunction with the Verein für Umweltmanagement in Banken, Sparkassen und Versicherungen (VfU) and the Finanzinitiative des UN-Umweltprogramms – Financial Initiative of the UN-Environmental Programme -(UNEP-FI) on June 24, 2009 in Augsburg. Banks, rating agencies and insurance companies play a central role in the assessment of risks and opportunities, which come from the use of biological resources by businesses. Possibilities will be discussed at this event whereby financial service providers will be able to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and the fair and sustainable use of ecosystem functions; for instance in the context of giving loans.

Miles to Help 2009

The “Miles to Help” programme from Lufthansa and its partner airlines of the Star Alliance, makes it possible for airline customers to donate their frequent flier miles to the GNF. In 2009, the frequent flier miles will be used for the protection of the endangered Snow Crane at the Poyang Lake in China, for the reforestation in South Africa in the context of the “Trees for Life” campaign and for the protection of the Pantanal in Brazil. More information can be found at: www.globalnature.org/miles-to-help.

Der Lake District National Park ist Veranstaltungsort für die Konferenz „Lakes for Living, Lakes for Life“ im Mai 2009.



Kids for the Dolphins 2009

The Project "Kids for the Dolphins" is meant to encourage the international exchange between Indonesian and German students. The students actively help to create different modules. During the 2008 school year, the students with personal responsibility, in cooperation with the GNF and YK-RASI, carried out various projects. The creation of different text books for Indonesian school children about energy, the environment and biodiversity are planned for 2009. The focal point in these books will be the comparison of Lake Constance with the Mahakam region. The creation of a video film is also planned which will showcase the local regions with their individual challenges. At the same time, Indonesian students will make a film about the challenges in their region. So that both German and Indonesian students remain a part of the intercultural exchange, and, in order to secure the transfer of knowledge, the students of the Constantin-Vanotti-School in Überlingen at Lake Constance have created a website. The project is supported by the Ursula Merz Foundation.



Der Schutz der bedrohten Irrawaddy-Delfine steht auch im Jahr 2009 bei Schülern in Deutschland und in Indonesien wieder im Lehrplan.



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
Katja Tolkachyova	Project Assistance	07732-9995-82
Tobias Hartmann	Project Assistance	07732-9995-82
Manuela Uhde	Finance and Marketing	07732-9995-85
Ursula Ehinger	Project Assistance and Administration	07732-9995-86
Gudrun Schomers	Secretariat/Translation	07732-9995-12
Claudia Maier	Accounting Assistance	07732-9995-81
Almut Weis	Webmaster	07732-9995-81
Stefan Hörmann	Office Bonn, Project Management	0228-2429018
Albert Wotke	Office Berlin	030-258986-0
Marion Hammerl	GNF-President	07732-9995-45



Expenses	Expenses	Personnel	Sum
Projects			
Living Lakes	140.674,97	81.998,63	
St. Lucia	12.259,94	2.085,72	
Nestos	1.505,50	0,00	
Lake Baikal	27.049,50	0,00	
Pantanal	59.713,94	8.312,31	
Dead Sea	14.479,22	2.344,22	
Laguna Fuquene	8.258,16	0,00	
Mahakam Wetlands	44.369,35	6.960,32	
Lake Victoria	24.272,11	7.289,84	
Lake Poyang	5.014,00	0,00	
Sri Lanka	5.995,70	2.428,20	
Pulicat, India	14.000,00	0,00	
Lagunita, Paraguay	0,00	0,00	
EU-Eco-Asia-Projekt/Post Tsunami	208.219,80	53.440,21	
Network Eastern Europe (DBU)	62.979,60	18.113,39	
EU-Interreg. Focus Nature	0,00	0,00	
BMU-Sonderbriefmarke	0,00	0,00	
Wisions, Solarproject, Kenya	40.289,09	17.847,00	
Other Projects:			
Cultural Landscapes (Extremadura, Mallorca, River Elbe)	6.276,86	0,00	
Protection of Sea (Mediterranean Whales and Dolphins)	0,00	0,00	
			675.357,74
Expert Conferences	77.287,41	23.653,77	77.287,41
Environmental Education	50.970,73	24.594,74	50.970,73
Administration	93.794,13	37.638,34	93.794,13
Appropriation to reserves		286.706,69	53.424,41
			950.834,42
Income			
general			
Interest and Investment proceeds	28.752,48		
Dissolution liabilities	75.250,00		
Reimbursement personnel costs	21.350,43		
Reimbursement tangible costs	14.303,26		
Fines	11.285,00		
Other revenues	237,89		
			151.179,06
Donations			
General donations	68.507,68		
Earmarked for special purposes	38.054,28		
Resulting from actions	46.476,85		
Supporters	2.720,00		
Patronages	26.590,37		
Free advertising	1.989,46		
Big donations	145.000,00		
In-kind donations	3.419,37		
			332.758,01
Allowances			
for actions and campaigns (DBU, others)	260.500,58		
for Expert Conferences (LL, Biodiversity)	45.308,18		
for EU-Eco-Asia project Post-Tsunami	161.088,59		
			466.897,35
Withdrawal from reserves			0,00
			950.834,42

Radolfzell, 9 July 2009
audited by Dr. Herberger GmbH, Konstanz



Marion Hammerl, President GNF

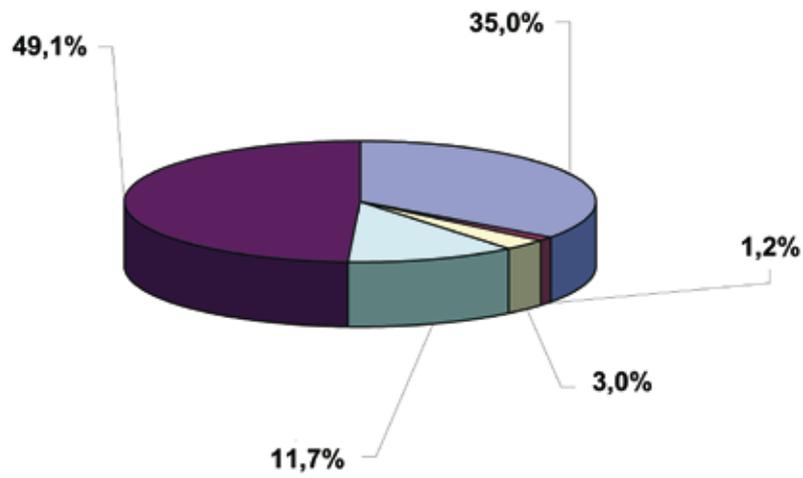
Balance Sheet per 31 December 2008

ACTIVA/Assets	EUR	EUR	<u>2007 in TEUR</u>	
I. Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets				
Office equipment	1.955,65		3,11	
Financial Assets				
1. Investments (Oeko Geno)	306,78		0,31	
2. Reinsurance pension fund	34.789,35		42,06	
3. loans	<u>0,00</u>		<u>0,00</u>	
		37.051,78		45,47
II. Current Assets				
1. Cash in hand and cash at bank				
Cash	122,33		0,09	
Bank accounts	179.505,09		163,12	
Fixed term deposit	774.374,66		644,23	
		954.002,08		807,44
2. Receivables				
Receivables from suppliers	26.750,00		69,64	
Other Receivables	112.792,62		61,50	
Rent deposit	2.799,31	142.341,93	2,79	133,93
3. Other assets				
Security paper (investments)	<u>0,00</u>	0,00	<u>100,35</u>	100,35
III. Active Adjustment				
		<u>3.102,65</u>		<u>2,59</u>
		<u>1.136.498,44</u>		<u>1.089,77</u>
 PASSIVA/Liabilities				
I. Foundation capital				
payments to foundation capital	417.638,04			
	<u>0,00</u>	417.638,04		417,64
II. Balance carried forward on 01-01-2008				
appropriation/withdrawal	277.179,44		237,42	
	<u>53.424,41</u>	330.603,85	39,76	277,18
III. Liabilities				
Trade liabilities	10.920,37		29,81	
Liabilities project grants	63.968,52		131,95	
Liabilities salaries and wages	5.697,05		4,17	
Other Liabilities	1.780,55		2,15	
Liabilities VAT (7%)	<u>3.500,00</u>	85.866,49	5,25	173,32
IV. Provisions				
Retirement provisions	34.789,35		42,06	
Other provisions	<u>82.214,57</u>	117.003,92	100,91	142,97
V. Passive Adjustment				
		<u>185.386,14</u>		<u>78,66</u>
		<u>1.136.498,44</u>		<u>1.089,77</u>

Radolfzell, 9 July 2009
audited by Dr. Herberger GmbH, Konstanz

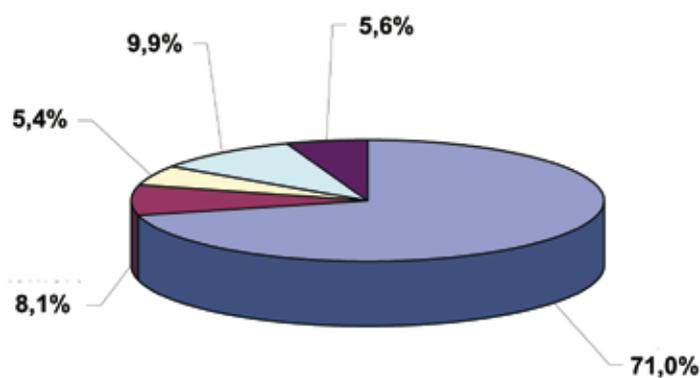

Marion Hammer, President GNF

Budget 2008 – Revenues



 Donations	332.758	 Interest	28.752
 Fines	11.285	 Other revenues	111.142
		 Allowances	466.897
		Sum	950.834

Budget 2008 – Expenses



 Projekte	675.358	 Verwaltung	93.794
 Fachkonferenzen	77.287	 Zuführung Rücklagen	53.424
 Umweltbildung	50.971		
		Summe	950.834

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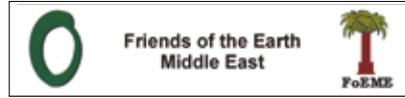
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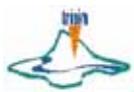
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