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Poaching threatens rhinos in South Africa



In 2010, 333 rhinos were poached.

Since lately, very powerful transmitters with battery are placed inside the horn, which signals can be located via mobile phone (GSM) network. Therefore, a solar powered mobile phone network will be established allowing the observation of a rhino at any moment. Thus, helpers may intervene immediately if something seems suspicious to them.

Our partner, the Wildlands Conservation Trust (WCT), wants to constantly control every single rhino in South Africa. In January 2011, activities started in the Somkhanda Game Reserve, where two White Rhinos were killed before. Thanks to the new technology, no further incident has been reported so far. Now other Game Reserves must be equipped with the same technology to stop poaching. The GSM system will be used on a total area of more than 1,000 square kilometres and costs are estimated to be over 300,000 Euros. This investment is indispensable to sustainably protect the rhinos and stop the poachers. Dr. Roelie Kloppers, project leader at WCT: "If we succeed in protecting the rhinos, then we protect all wild animals in South Africa."

are the reasons for the drastic decline. Due to the high demand for horn in Asia, the estimated price of a rhino horn per kilogramme is currently around 35,000 Euros. In 2010, 333 rhinos were killed in South Africa, among them 10 critically endangered Black Rhinos. This year, 287 dead animals were found, 146 individuals alone in the Kruger National Park. Since transmitter collars for rhinos are not suitable, special transmitters are placed inside the horn. This absolutely pain-free technology has been used for telemetry purposes (collecting signals with antennas) so far. But poachers are active at night when there are no controls.

You can support the project to save rhinos in South Africa with a donation at: www.globalnature.org/Donations

During the past 30 years, the world's rhino population has declined by over 90%. Once there were 30 different rhino species, today only five species are left. In Africa, only White Rhino and Black Rhino are found. Poaching for luxury products and traditional medicine, habitat loss and political conflicts



Dr. Andrew Venter

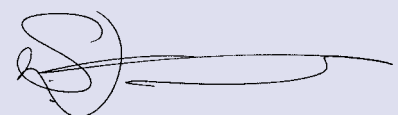
Preface

From the 28th November to the 9th December I had the privilege of actively participating in COP 17. Coming into COP 17 I had little appreciation for the significance and complexity of the negotiations and issues debated. I thought it was about the Kyoto Protocol and that the success or failure of COP 17 rested on securing the extension of this protocol. I now realise that it is about fundamentally changing the way we live and behave, the evolution of a new global economy and reinforcing our custodianship of the blue planet and its green services which sustain us – humanity. What was

particularly intriguing and encouraging was the incredible diversity of pioneers and activists that COP 17 drew to Durban. This is a broad based movement of individuals championing a mix of social, economic and environmental issues.

Central to current debate was the role that water will play in our collective future. It is clear that water is one of the key climate change drivers, either too much, resulting in flooding, or too little, resulting in droughts. In this context, the Living Lakes network has an incredibly important contribution to make. The work being done by the network partners represents water conservation, flood attenuation, ecosystem restoration and sustainable development innovations happening daily. In the meantime we need to deal with the reality of protecting and conserving key threate-

ned species that are threatened with extinction through our own greed and development. The perilous conservation state of our planet's Rhino species demonstrates this. There is renewed pressure on these magnificent beast and there is a war being fought to protect them. Global Nature Funds efforts to support Rhino conservation and to raise awareness about the increase in poaching is a very important part of an international campaign to save this species.



Dr. Andrew Venter, Member of the Board of Directors at GNF

Electrocutions, Greenwashing and GM Technology in Food

The European Business & Biodiversity Campaign (EBBC) started as an information campaign and was running full speed ahead with plenty of events this autumn. The events aimed at increasing the private business commitment to the preservation of biodiversity. Selected industry segments at international and regional level were being addressed. The aim of the campaign is not to point out the mistakes and wag the finger at enterprises, but to initiate a dialogue among them by means of pioneer enterprises. Based on best practice examples, dependences and effects on biodiversity are shown as well as ways of how to tackle these problems.

One of the focuses of the EBBC is the energy sector. In November, in cooperation with the Spanish partner Fundación Global Nature and the energy company Iberdrola, a first taster workshop was organised in Madrid. The participants discussed the issue of how to reconcile the necessary expansion of the electricity networks with biodiversity conservation. Practical examples such as the electrocution of snakes at transmission lines or the collision of raptor birds with wind turbines and a review of steps, companies have taken against it provided an overview of the most important biodiversity issues of the energy sector. More events for the industry sector are to come.

EBBC is also active at regional level. In the German Swabian Mountains a conference on genetic engineering and biodiversity in conjunction with the pasta producer Alb-Gold took place. The regional participants were informed how to produce GM-free and how to initiate measures to reduce or prevent negative impacts on species diversity and ecosystems. Further events for the food sector are planned for 2012.

New cooperation opportunities for NGOs arise from the increasing interest of businesses in sustainability and conservation.

To avoid greenwashing traps, a workshop on NGO business cooperation was organized in Arnheim, Netherlands. Conclusion for NGOs: a cooperation should be based on mutual confidence, business relationships must grow slowly over time. Two further events on this topic will be carried out in Spain and Eastern Europe in 2012.

The European Business & Biodiversity Campaign is supported by the EU LIFE+ Programme. The goal of the campaign is to underline the importance - also the economic importance - of biodiversity and to arouse the interest of businesses in the active protection and preservation of species and ecosystems. Sustainability managers and decision makers in leading positions can acquire information on methods and tools on how to evaluate impacts of economic activities on the biodiversity.

Further information: Stefan Hörmann, hoermann@globalnature.org



Workshop on genetic engineering and biodiversity in Trochtelfingen, Germany.



Supported by:



E-Learning for lakes

The new GNF project Learning for Lakes is intended to offer advanced training - via multimedia - for lake managers addressing issues such as economic development in lake regions, restoration of lakes and wetlands, involving communities, and cooperation with agriculture and fishery. As a result, an E-Learning tool will be jointly developed by the partners from UK, Germany, Poland, Spain and Hungary. Learning for Lakes is supported by the EU Programme for Lifelong Learning. More information at www.globalnature.org/LearningForLakes.

Living Lakes receives award of UNESCO for the fourth time

LIVING LAKES has been recognized by the German UNESCO Commission as project for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. Up to now 1,300 projects have received this award, Living Lakes is one of fourteen projects that has been honoured for the fourth time consecutively. "Living Lakes impressively demonstrates possible forms of future sustainable education initiatives. The jury appreciates the project, because it understandably shows and encourages people to behave sustainably", says Prof. Dr. Gerhard de Haan, chair of the national committee and jury of the UN decade in Germany. The award is destined to initiatives implementing exemplarily the ideas of this worldwide education offensive of the United Nations meant to conveying sustainable thinking and acting to children and adults.



Federal Association of the German Sporting Goods Industry joins EBBC

The Federal Association of the German Sporting Goods Industry (BSI) is cooperating with the GNF. Goal of the BSI is to draw the attention of the member companies to the importance of biodiversity and to sensitise them on the protection of biodiversity. Members have access to the biodiversity check that was developed by GNF for

business companies. The check is modelled on the environmental management systems EMAS III and ISO 14.001 where departments or processes of selected production facilities or product lines are analysed in view of possible negative impacts and potential risks to species diversity. Different industry sectors have already successfully implemented the

check in their company. BSI was founded in 1910 and comprises German Sporting Goods manufacturers, importers and wholesalers. About 150 leading mostly middle sized businesses are members of the association, among them international market leaders such as Adidas, Puma, Asics, Fischer, Vökl, Marker, Lowa, Vaude, Tatonka or Kettler.



Grave floods caused changes in foraging behaviors of cranes.

Siberian Cranes lack favored food

In response to shortages of the favoured food - an aquatic plant *Vallisneria*, due to severe flooding in summer 2010, changed foraging behaviors of Siberian Cranes, White-naped Cranes and Tundra Swans could be observed at the Living Lake Poyang in China. Analysis indicated that foraging still occurred in wetlands, but that more food-item consumption occurred in uplands. This is due to flocks in wetlands searching harder for the scarce resource *Vallisneria* tubers and upland flocks having it easier to forage *Potentilla*. Further in 2011, research cooperation of the International Crane Foundation (ICF) could be expanded with Nanchang and Jiangxi Normal Universities. Common

research subjects cover waterbirds, aquatic vegetation, invertebrates, fish and hydrology in Poyang Lake. Also, in 2011 the Poyang research report book „Ecological Study of Wetlands and Waterbirds at Poyang Lake“ was published in August by Popular Science Press of China. The book summarises eleven years of ecological monitoring results by ICF and Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve in studying the relationships among aquatic plants, water level and waterbirds at the lake. The project was partly financed by the Miles to help-Programme of Lufthansa.



Organic vegetables instead of Nile Perch

Focus of the three year project is on improving the organic vegetable cultivation and bee-keeping with the involvement of our Kenyan partner organisation OSIENALA. Per year, vegetable gardens with approx. 5,000 plants will be established each in ten communities and at five schools in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ruanda and Burundi. Additionally, efficient bee-keeping will be carried out in five regions as a model project. Target groups are families and women, communities and school kids in selected lake communities.



Partners in Ruanda preparing the soil.

Hundred trees for centenary celebration

To celebrate its centenary, the fashion house C&A has donated 100 trees that were planted in alluvial forests along the German rivers Neckar, Nahe, Lippe, Weser and Elbe. The picture shows white willow tree-planting at the Radolfzell Aach, a tributary to Lake Constance. Since 1998, C&A has supported Living Lakes, and thus importantly contributed to the protection of rivers and lakes. Additionally, the company does exhibitions and information boots to inform customers about environmental problems at lakes.



Trees were planted also at Radolfzeller Aach, an inflow of Lake Constance.

Thanks to the transnational co-operation between the groups and organisations involved in the project, the network Living Lakes East Africa is very active and fosters cross-border exchange with the African organisations. More network activities are planned for the future. The project is supported by the Foundation Ursula Merz.

New faces at GNF

GNF welcomes two new staff members in Radolfzell since mid-year. Katharina Trump is a graduate biologist and has already gathered experience in the field of practical conservation in Argentine and Namibia. She is mainly responsible for the project „Lighting for

Africa“. Dr. Corinna Brunschön holds a PhD in biology and worked for various nature and environment projects in South America and Asia. She is mainly working in the European Business & Biodiversity Campaign. A warm welcome to both!



Dr. Corinna Brunschön



Katharina Trump

Events

3. Bonn Conference for Development Policy 30 - 31 January 2012

Bonn, Germany

GNF leads the panel „Smartphone or Bloodphone? Cell phones and the social and ecological impacts in the countries of the South.“

Info: www.bonn-conference.nrw.de

6th World Water Forum 12 - 17 March 2012

Marseille, France

More at: www.worldwaterforum6.org

Fair Handeln 2012 12 - 15 April 2012

Stuttgart, Germany

The international trade fair FAIR HANDELN focuses on Fairtrade and globally responsible and sustainable trade and activities in the economy, financial world, tourism,

consumption and development cooperation. Meet the staff of the Global Nature Fund at their info point.

More at: www.fair-handeln.com

European Biodiversity Summit 17 - 18 April 2012

Stuttgart, Germany

The European Biodiversity Summit takes places in the frame of the 8th German CSR Forum, one of the biggest German events for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and sustainable corporate management.

More at: www.csrforum.eu/summit

5th Workshop Forum Synergies 18 - 21 April 2012

Val de Druegeon, Frankreich

Information and registration at: tolkachyova@globalnature.org

14th Living Lakes Conference

11 - 16 June 2012

Valencia, Spain

For registration and further information please contact Katja Tolkachyova at: tolkachyova@globalnature.org

Exhibitions

Pantanal – a Nature Paradise in Danger Zingst, Galerie Schule des Sehens:

5 November 2011 - 29 January 2012

Living Lakes Germany

Palmhouse Constance:

15 November 2011 - 15 January 2012

Publications and Online-Information

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In August and September this year, heavy rains and inundations heavily destroyed approx. 80 % of the houses in the district of Sindh in Pakistan. In the district is also one of the GNF-projects for food security which had to be interrupted due to the urgent lack of basic needs. Basic needs of the people must be reestablished. We are looking for funds for food, drinking water and tents. Please donate at: www.betterplace.org/de/organisations/globalnature

betterplace.org 

Together with the Grüne Liga e.V. and other experts of the water sector, GNF has published the policy paper "Water for Life". The brochure of 12 pages describes the main international challenges like the human right on water and sanitation, the European water framework directive and international dam projects. Download at: www.globalnature.org/Publications

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