

Learning for Lakes:

Partnership Case Study



Title: Development of the network 'Living Lakes Germany' – Transfer of well-functioning model projects in lake landscapes

Location: 14 regions in Germany

Period: 15 September 2009 - (ongoing)

Organisations: Global Nature Fund, ANTON & PETRA EHRMANN STIFTUNG, Reckitt Benckiser (2009-2011), partner organisations of the Living Lakes Network Germany

Location and Background including Problems/Issues and Causes of Issue

Lakes and Wetlands are one of the most important, but simultaneously, of the most threatened habitats. They are threatened by fertilizer and pesticides of farming, by waste water and shoreline buildings as well as by overexploitation and draining. In many lake regions, as for example at Lake Constance (Baden-Wuerttemberg), Müritz (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania) and Lake Ammer (Bavaria), there have been implemented a lot of successful projects solving some of the problems mentioned above. In the past, there was no platform for information exchange and cooperation in Germany. This gap was closed with the initiation of the network Living Lakes Germany of the Global Nature Fund in 2009. The work of the network focuses on the sustainable development of lakes. The results should be transferable to other lakes and wetlands in Germany or in other parts of the world where conditions are similar. Deficits of the lake protection should be remedied by means of the network.

The aims of the network are:

- Protection of the lakes in Germany as habitats with high biological diversity,
- Information exchange between different lake regions,
- Transfer of successful model projects in lake regions on conservation of drinking water, sustainable land use, renewable energies and environmental education,
- Intensified climate protection at lakes
- Public relation: providing information to citizens, stakeholders and the media

Organisations Involved

Global Nature Fund (non-governmental organization), ANTON & PETRA EHRMANN STIFTUNG (foundation), 11 partner organizations

Actions Taken

Network meetings

Network meetings are regularly held facilitating the exchange of experiences. Participants are members of the partner organizations and further stakeholders that were brought together at round-tables. In addition to discussions the participants can increase their knowledge on lake management by means of excursions and lectures of experts.

- Introduction-Workshop at Lake Constance (July 2009), Friedrichshafen
- official founding event at Lake Starnberg (15 September 2009), Bernried
- Workshop at Steinhude Lake (May 2010), Steinhude
- Expert Workshop: Renaturation of reed at Plauer Lake (November 2010), Plau
- Round-table at Lake Stechlin (September 2012) with the major, vestrymen, regional politicians, experts for nature conservation, scientists, scuba divers, fishermen and representatives of the tourism business at Lake Stechlin (16 local actors and 10 experts from all over Germany)
- Workshop at Lake Mindel (June 2013), Radolfzell-Möggingen

Living Lake of the year

Every year on the World Water Day, the members of the network Living Lakes Germany nominate a Living Lake of the respective year. Each Living Lake of the Year is in the center of attention for one year.

The nominations until 2013 (ongoing)

2011 Plauer Lake (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania)

2012 Lake Stechlin (Brandenburg)

2013 Lake Mindel (Baden-Württemberg)

Big Jump Challenge

The Big Jump Challenge is a youth campaign for environmental education. In 2012 and 2013 young people jumped at the same day into lakes and rivers in Germany to bring the water quality of these bodies of water to the politician's attention. The winner team with the most creative and informative ideas to the topic has the possibility to discuss the situation of the protection of the bodies of water with politicians in the German Federal Parliament. The success of the Big Jump Challenge 2012: Over 50 jumps, over 70 media reports and one "river parliament" in the German Federal Parliament.

Events

- Lake Adventure Days (July – September 2011) at lakes of the Living Lakes Network Germany
- GEO-day of the species diversity (4 June 2011): joint monitoring of freshwater species with volunteers at lakes of the Living Lakes Network Germany

Touring exhibition 'Living Lakes Germany'

The exhibition informs visitors about the conflicts and problems at German lakes, about the aims of the Living Lakes Network and about the projects of the partner organizations contributing to lake protection. Parts of the exhibition were also



presented on a fair (Beach & Boot in Berlin, November 2012) where they had been seen by several thousands of visitors.

Public relations

Information is distributed via newsletter, webpages, events and press releases of the Global Nature Fund or the partner organizations. Selected media representatives are invited to the network meetings and events. Additionally, the network Living Lakes Germany has a media partnership to the magazine 'nature' (formerly 'natur + kosmos'; www.natur.de).

Homepage of the project: www.globalnature.org/Netzwerk-Deutschland

Maintenance and Monitoring

The Network Living Lakes Germany continues its activities and increases its number of partner organizations. The network started in 2009 with a partnership to representatives of seven lakes and to four additional partner organizations. In 2013, at the moment, the network comprises associations representing ten German lakes and five further organizations dealing with lake protection and conservation all over Germany. During the regularly held meetings the aims of the network can be reflected and, if necessary, corrected.

Results and Benefits

Knowledge transfer is expanded to the international level by means of the relationship to the international Living Lakes Networks of the Global Nature Fund. Common project applications of partner organization are submitted. Cooperation with media will be continued.

Lessons Learnt

Networks act as promoter for common nature conservation. The regular exchange and meetings motivate the partner organizations to improve their own project implementation as well as to achieve common goals. The connection with other organizations provides support but also some kind of monitoring and reflection of the institutional projects.

References:

www.globalnature.org/Netzwerk-Deutschland

Credits: Nina Bastian, Global Nature Fund; Dr. Thomas Schaefer, Global Nature Fund; Greta Link, Global Nature Fund