

## Newsletter Topics

### 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2014

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## Preface

### Plenty of water drops turn into churning waves

The UN General Assembly declared 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation. The World Water Year aimed to increase people's awareness of the importance of water for the survival of humans and nature, and to intensify international cooperation.

Water has always been GNF's primary focus. As particularly developing countries are increasingly affected by water scarcity and deteriorating water quality, GNF, in conjunction with its partner organisations in Latin America, Africa and Asia, has initiated an increasing number of international cooperation projects during the past years dealing with access to safe drinking water as well as topics such as sanitary facilities, water pollution, energy generation and biodiversity. The wide range of activities is based on trustful cooperation with our partner organisations throughout the world – from Colombia via Burundi to India.

The success of these projects, particularly the resulting human relations and friendships, are a source of inspiration and motivation for me every day. I would in particular like to stress that without our supporters and sponsors and their confidence in our work, it would not have been possible to carry out most of these projects. Whether public authorities, businesses, foundations or individual donors, – we would like to express our sincere thanks to all of them. Only together we will be able to meet the complex social challenges.



Udo Gattenlöhner  
Executive Director  
Global Nature Fund



Visiting our project partners in Sri Lanka

## More Nature at Company Premises

### Feel-good factor for humans and wildlife

Since 2010, GNF has been coordinating the European Business and Biodiversity Campaign (EBBC). GNF provides different types of support to businesses in order to preserve the biodiversity. A current example is the project entitled "Greening of Company Premises". No matter how big the company is or what branch of industry it belongs to, there are always manifold possibilities for close to nature design of premises. Facade and roof greening for instance can create valuable habitats for animal and plant species, they reduce the energy consumption for heating and cooling and look beautiful.

The focus of this project developed by GNF, Heinz Sielmann Foundation and Lake Constance Foundation is on businesses that intend to construct new buildings or re-design existing premises. Thanks

to the financial support provided by the Federal Programme Biodiversity of the Federal Environment Ministry and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, over 20 businesses in Germany can be advised. Between eight to ten companies will be selected and supported in re-designing their company premises near-naturally.

Additionally, biodiversity checks are being promoted as well. Impacts on biodiversity are not always obvious at first sight, they are often hidden in supply chains – resulting from cultivation and extraction of raw materials. The EBBC biodiversity check helps examine business processes and value creation chains with regards to biodiversity, analyses the impacts on biodiversity and helps develop measures to reduce these negative impacts. (sh)



Biodiversity on company premises

For more information see:  
[www.naturnahefirmengelände.de](http://www.naturnahefirmengelände.de)  
[www.business-biodiversity.eu](http://www.business-biodiversity.eu)





Lake Sampaloc – one of Seven Crater Lakes of San Pablo City

## Threatened Lake of the Year 2014

### Intensive fish farming and urban pressure at Lake Sampaloc

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, on the occasion of the Worlds Wetlands Day, GNF proclaimed Lake Sampaloc – representing all seven crater lakes in San Pablo City – as “Threatened Lake of the Year 2014”. In cooperation with the local Living Lakes partner organisation Friends of the Seven Lakes Foundation (FSLF), GNF calls for sustainable measures to protect the lakes and improve their water quality.

#### Unlimited growth over decades

Already in 1976 first fish cages were used to commercially breed the introduced African Tilapia at Lake Sampaloc. During the peak in the 1990s, 70 % of the crater lakes’ surface was used for fish farming. High fish populations, over-feeding as well as untreated waste water from the surrounding communities led to eutrophication and a rapid deterioration of the water bodies. Due to the high pollution load, mass death of fish and rapid algal growth occurred temporarily. The assimilative capacity of the seven crater

lakes was insufficient to counteract the adverse effects of the intensive use. In 2012, fish cages still occupied more than 40 % of Lake Sampaloc’s surface, even though only 10% are permitted.

#### Local commitment required

Since its foundation in 2000, FSLF has been working to implement sustainable protective measures in the sensitive ecosystems of the seven crater lakes. FSLF now receives support from the municipal administration of San Pablo City, whose mayor strongly supports the establishment of a master plan for sustainable tourism development. A committee is currently developing a package of measures including the relocation of the fish cages within the frame of an authorised zoning plan as well as alternative sources of income for the residents. FSLF President Fernando Fabros says: “Our local government is taking the lead in addressing the problems of the seven crater lakes”. State resources are limi-

ted as they are above all needed for the rehabilitation of the areas devastated by the Typhoon Haiyan, including cities and communities in the provinces south of Manila. (aw)

More information and an interview with Bobby Azores (Chairman of Friends of the Seven Lakes Foundation) available at [www.globalnature.org/ThreatenedLake2014](http://www.globalnature.org/ThreatenedLake2014)



High nutrient pollution leads to algal blooms

## Trees for Life

### Helping people in Burundi help themselves!

In our last newsletter we reported on the GNF project promoting improved cooking stoves and tree planting in Burundi. The new energy-efficient stoves are made of clay and metal, and save fuel wood. Additionally, tree planting secures the supply of fuel-wood. The project contributes to the reduction of deforestation in the nearby Rusizi National Park and helps to protect the threatened species living there such as hippopotamus, Bushbuck and Serval, a rare African wild cat species. (nb)

More detail on the project can be found at: [www.globalnature.org/Stoves-Burundi](http://www.globalnature.org/Stoves-Burundi)

**You can help with your donation to plant trees for the welfare of man and nature.**

#### Donation account:

GLS-Gemeinschaftsbank Bochum  
Key Word: Trees in Burundi  
IBAN: DE 53 4306 0967 8040 4160 00  
BIC: GENODEM1GLS



Hippos are indigenous to the Rusizi National Park



Farming is a daily challenge in the Jordan Valley, at the same time it constitutes the main and only income for many riparian communities

## Readers ask:

### What happened then in the Jordan Valley?

In the GNF Newsletter of October 2013, the article entitled "Peace beyond Borders", informed about the GNF project in the Lower Jordan Valley. Now, GNF visited the project area in order to see by itself what the water situation is like there.

Water is scarce in this part of the World, this is a fact. For this reason, GNF and the local partners Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME/WEDO) have engaged, for multiple years now, in enhancing the use of water in the Jordan Valley and in protecting the aquatic ecosystem of the Lower Jordan River. During the trip GNF had a close-up view on how the limited water resources are used between the riparian communities. For instance, the mid section of the Jordan Valley (locally called Al-Ghor) offers a good overview of water usage in the valley. On the Jordanian side, water is intensively used for agriculture. Green houses cover all terrains and water distribution is administrated



New water distribution systems are urgently needed

by local water associations. Farmers rely heavily on irrigation and drip irrigation is widely used. On the Israeli side, water seems to be optimally managed. Kibbutzims that are responsible for farm lands and aquaculture ponds have access to sufficient amounts of water. The highly developed techniques and the advanced expertise in Israel guarantee an efficient use of water resources. On the Palestinian side, however, water availability is a major obstacle for the development of the communities. Many Palestinian farmers lack access to sufficient amounts of water to irrigate their fields. They rely on scarce spring waters and wells that were dug prior to the beginning of the Palestinian-Israeli conflicts.

### Are there alternative water resources in the Jordan Valley?

Treated wastewater from big cities is the main alternative water resource for agriculture. This practice is widely used on the Jordanian side, where wastewater from Amman city is treated, mixed with freshwater and used in agriculture. On the Israeli side, treated wastewater is also widely used once gathered from dense communities. On the Palestinian side, the lack of a sanitation network constitutes the major obstacle to reuse treated wastewater. This will be the upcoming challenge to enhance the livelihood of Palestinian farmers and to establish a more sustainable agriculture – a challenge for the master plan within the frame of the GNF project. (am, gl)

The project is supported by the European Commission within the frame of the SWIM (Sustainable Water Integrated Management) Programme and the Foundation Ursula Merz.

More detail on the project can be found at:  
[www.globalnature.org/swim-jordan](http://www.globalnature.org/swim-jordan)



## We say Thank You!

### Michael Bauer, Co-Founder

For forty years now, I have been committed to the protection of nature and environment in the Lake Constance region. For some years, I have been a BUND group leader at the peninsula of Höri. There I got to know Prof. Dr. Gerhard Thielcke and have come to appreciate him very much.

Later, due to the change from dependent employment to self-employment, little time was left for honorary activities. Instead, I decided to provide financial support for the protection of the environment. As Gerhard Thielcke asked me in 1998 to become a founder of the Global Nature Fund, I immediately accepted because environmental and nature conservation in Germany only makes sense if the remaining part of the earth can be protected as well.



Supporter for many years – Michael Bauer

## News

### Publications and Online Information

#### Attractive Raffle Prizes

Many people took part in our quiz on "Organic Viticulture". The following winners were drawn from the 52 correct entries.

1<sup>st</sup> prize: Two bottles of organic wine donated by organic wine growers, members of the ECOVIN Federal Association of Organic Wine Producers went to Johanna Buchenauer.

2<sup>nd</sup> prize: The "wine" crime novel "Tödlicher Steilhang" (fatal deep slopes) went to Frank Hildebrand.

3<sup>rd</sup> prize: Pocket book "Sein letzter Burgunder" (His last glass of Burgundy wine) went to Melanie Niemetz.

Thanks to all participants and congratulations to all winners!



Congrats to the winner!

#### "Biodiversity Criteria in Standards and Quality Labels for the Food Industry" Baseline Report January 2014

This report published by GNF and Lake Constance Foundation contains analyses of 20 labels and standards of the Food Industry in terms of their relevance to the protection of biodiversity.

On the project website, you will find a German and an English version for download: <http://lebensmittelstandards.business-biodiversity.eu>

#### GNF News:

Since February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014, GNF has been an official member in the network "BION – Biodiversity in Bonn" – a network of actors in biodiversity research in Bonn.

Katharina Freund started working in the GNF office in Bonn in the fields of PR and Business & Biodiversity in January 2014.

#### GNF at Facebook

Visit us at Facebook and tell us your opinion!  
[www.facebook.com/globalnature.org](http://www.facebook.com/globalnature.org)



## Events

### March - May 2014

16 March - 11 April 2014

Photo exhibition „Pantanal – A Nature Paradise in Danger“

• 16 March 2014, 11:00-12:00

Vernissage of the Photo Exhibition

• 19 March 2014, 20:00-21:30

“Pantanal – The Heart of South America“ Presentation by the biologist Angelika Hofer

Gallery/Tourist Information, Rathausplatz 14, 79843 Löffingen, Germany  
[www.globalnature.org/Pantanal-Ausstellung](http://www.globalnature.org/Pantanal-Ausstellung)

8 April 2014

Beauty of Sourcing with Respect 2014 Conference

Paris, France

[www.business-biodiversity.eu](http://www.business-biodiversity.eu)

[www.ethicalbiotrade.org/bsr\\_2014](http://www.ethicalbiotrade.org/bsr_2014)

27 April 2014

Presentation of the Project "Drinking Water for Africa" within the frame of the TUI Marathon Hanover

Hanover, Germany

6/7 May 2014

PEF Food Conference

Berlin, Germany

[www.business-biodiversity.eu](http://www.business-biodiversity.eu)

[www.pef-world-forum.org/events](http://www.pef-world-forum.org/events)

7/8 May 2014

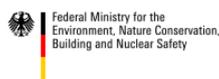
10<sup>th</sup> German CSR Forum

Forum am Schlosspark,

Ludwigsburg near Stuttgart, Germany

[www.csrforum.eu](http://www.csrforum.eu)

## Supporters



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