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# Living Lakes Goals

2005 - 2010

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*Save the lakes of the world!*





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for Environment and Nature***

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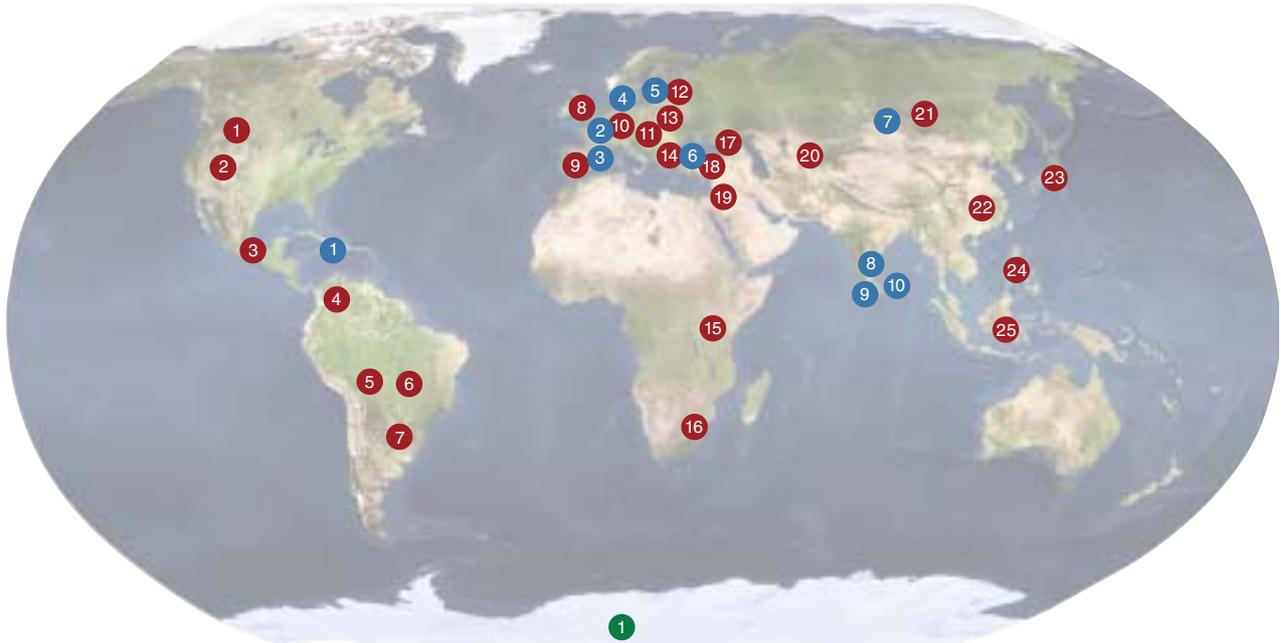
**Cover photo** Lake Constance

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# Living Lakes

## Members & Associates

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### Living Lakes Honorary Member

- 1 Lake Vostok; Antarctica

### Living Lakes Associate Members

- 1 Lago Enriquillo and Lac Azuéli; Dominican Republic and Haiti
- 2 Mindelsee; Germany
- 3 Salobrar de Campos; Spain
- 4 Kolindsund Wetlands; Denmark
- 5 Labanoras Park; Lithuania
- 6 Lake Sapanca; Turkey
- 7 Lake Uvs; Mongolia
- 8 Pulicat Lake; India
- 9 Lake Maduganga and Madampe Lake; Sri Lanka
- 10 Bolgoda Lake; Sri Lanka



## Living Lakes **Mission**

Living Lakes is an international network and partnership whose mission is to enhance the protection, restoration and rehabilitation of lakes, wetlands, other freshwater bodies of the world and their catchment areas.

## Living Lakes **Vision**

All lakes, wetlands and freshwater bodies of the world should be healthy ecosystems and where they are used by human kind that use should be sustainable and not damaging to the environment.

## Living Lakes **Objectives**

- Conserving the biodiversity
- Preservation of freshwater, saline water resources, lakes and wetland ecosystems
- Restoring altered and disappearing wetlands and lake ecosystems
- Improving the quality of life for the local communities
- Agree upon a commitment towards a sustainable use and development of these ecosystems (i.e. through agriculture, fishery, tourism, settlement and water use)
- Promoting the use of applied sciences and technologies towards the conservation of these ecosystems
- Supporting educational programmes and co-operation with local communities towards the conservation of the biodiversity of these ecosystems
- Disseminating information relevant to these ecosystems

## Living Lakes **Goals 2005 - 2010**

- To build up a viable and dynamic network of 50-100 lakes and wetlands from all over the world
- To attain the status of regional, national and international protection (i.e. World Heritage, Ramsar site etc.) for all Living Lakes
- To initiate and support urgent actions focused on extremely endangered lakes
- To support the protection of migratory species
- To facilitate implementation of the Agenda 21 at the member lakes
- To pursue model wastewater treatment management systems and to undertake other measures to improve water quality of the member lakes
- To further renewable energy in lake and wetland areas
- To support and promote sustainable fisheries, tourism and organic agriculture



- To increase the number of joint projects among Living Lakes members
- To identify and strengthen capacities of the network's member organisations
- To intensify exchange in experiences and know-how between the Living Lakes members and with external stakeholders alike
- To ensure involvement of local people and communities in the protection of lakes
- To advance the World Lake Vision and encourage its realisation on a local level
- To make the Living Lakes Network internationally known

### **Living Lakes Tools**

We pursue to implement the Living Lakes Network in the next five years by using a wide range of different tools and methods. Among others, the most significant are model projects carried out in cooperation with the Living Lakes partner organisations, regular conferences assembling all members at a different Living Lake every year, our Web pages and periodical publications giving platform for international exchange and cooperation, diverse PR and media work at international and local levels and many more.

### **Individual Goals of the Living Lakes Members**

Every organisation of the network works on the local level in order to keep its lake a living one. Being different in scale and type, dealing with different lakes and wetlands under varying political and economic conditions, the Living Lakes members also identified individual goals adopted to the prevailing in situ conditions.



## Individual Goals of Living Lakes Members

### Columbia River Wetlands; Canada

While the logging, mining and tourism industries have left their mark on the Columbia River valley, where the Living Lakes member wetland is located, wild places still exist. Places that provide living conditions for an abundance of wildlife and for humans to connect with nature. An inspiring example of dedication and in-depth expertise demonstrates East Kootenay Environmental Society/Wildsight, working to protect the diversity of wildlife habitats, wild landscapes, air, water and quality of life of south-eastern British Columbia since 1887.

#### Goals

- Enact regulation under Canadian law to restrict the use of motorised vessels in the Columbia Wetlands, a precedent setting initiative to protect environmental values;
- Designate the Columbia Wetlands as a Ramsar site;
- Prioritise environmental protection measures in the regional development initiatives that impact the Columbia Wetlands, including forestry, agricultural, tourism, sewage disposal and others;
- Promote a Canada Wetland Act;
- Encourage decision makers at all levels to commit to the protection of the Columbia Wetlands;
- Focus local, national, and international attention on the critical water supply, wildlife and migratory bird values of the Columbia Wetlands.



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### Mono Lake; USA

Located in California's spectacular Eastern Sierra, Mono Lake is an oasis in the dry Great Basin and a vital habitat for millions of migratory and nesting birds. For more than 25 years the Mono Lake Committee has been working to protect Mono Lake from destruction, to heal the damage done in the Mono Basin and to educate the public about the natural environment and wise water use. Mono Lake Committee was among the five lake-organisations that came together and gave rise to the international Living Lakes network in 1998.

#### Goals

- Achieve Ramsar designation for Mono Lake and Mono Basin;
- Initiate student/volunteer exchanges with partner lakes and sponsors;
- Increase the Committee's capacity to encourage field science in the Mono Basin;
- Build an outdoor education centre to enhance the Committee's urban youth environmental education programme.



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## Lake Chapala; Mexico

For all lakes, health and sustainability of their tributaries are vital. This is also true for Lake Chapala, which lost much of its original volume due to the water diversion from the Lerma River, its main inflow, blocked with 11 dams and innumerable irrigation systems. The wetlands of the river Lerma delta are of great value and must be protected under national law and declared as RAMSAR site.

### Goals

- Restore the natural levels and to obtain desirable water quality standards;
- Implement a master plan with the participation of the local communities and the governmental agencies;
- Obtain a water distribution agreement with upstream users;
- Develop modern irrigation systems for agriculture;
- Establish a citizen's hydrometric network;
- Contribute to the creation of a new water culture in the population;
- Develop ecotourism projects and promote local fisheries;
- Include Chapala in the RAMSAR list.



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## Laguna Fuquene; Colombia

The vast shallow lagoon is located in the east of the Colombian Andes, in an altitude of 2,540 m, approx. 80 km from Bogotá. The water volume of the lagoon decreased by one metre in the past 30 years because of excessive water withdrawal of the tributaries for irrigation purposes. 6,700 tons of sediments are deposited every year in the lagoon. Problems are caused by eutrophication and the introduced water hyacinth, which rapidly spreads out within the lagoon.

### Goals

- Promote the adoption of a management plan by the Environmental Authority for the conservation of the lake ecosystem;
- Promote a legal status for the conservation of the lake and its biodiversity;
- Promote the establishment of private reserves and restoration processes along the lake's shore;
- Promote the adoption of management plans for biological resources, including fisheries, reed harvesting and non consumptive use of birds and other biodiversity by relevant stakeholders;
- Establish bird conservation priorities and implement recommendations;
- Promote ecotourism activities in the lake area with local participation;
- Establish an information centre and increase public awareness on the lake.



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## Individual Goals of Living Lakes Members

### Lake Titicaca; Peru and Bolivia

Lake Titicaca is situated at 3,810 metres above sea level in the Andes Mountains, forming the border between Peru in the West and Bolivia in the East. The wetland is a permanent freshwater lake, with adjacent marshes and extensive areas of emergent aquatic vegetation. The site is extremely important for migratory shorebirds and Andean water birds, including three species of flamingos. Lack of appropriate waste water treatment, heavy metal contamination stemming from mining activities as well as soil erosion and degradation due to crop production are the major threats to Lake Titicaca.

#### Goals

- Strengthen the Binational Biodiversity Strategy for the Titicaca Basin (Lake Titicaca-Desaguadero River-Poopó Lake and Coipasa Salt Flat);
- Further ecotourism or „sustainable tourism“ in the Titicaca basin;
- Promote strategic alliances between private sector, NGOs, San Andrés University, central and local government and communities;
- Develop conservation actions with a peruvian NGO partner.



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### Pantanal Wetlands; Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay

Being the largest wetland in the world, the breathtaking, vast Pantanal wetland is a poacher's seventh heaven to hunt for caimans, jaguars, ocelots, big parrots and many other animals. On the other hand, poaching is one of many problems the Brazilian Living Lakes partner organisation Ecotropica has to deal with in their nature conservation work.

#### Goals

- Self sufficiency of Ecotropica as conservation tool;
- 100,000 hectares protected directly or indirectly;
- Public relations programmes.



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## Mar Chiquita; Argentina

Mar Chiquita is Argentina's biggest lake, with a surface area of 5,770 square kilometres at times of high water levels. In periods of extended droughts the lake surface can drop to 1,960 square kilometres. The salt content also fluctuates from 25 to 290 g/l depending on the water level. These extreme conditions protected the lake from overpopulation and overuse, but at the same time offer breeding place for up to 50,000 pairs of Chileflamingo. Two areas around the lake are under protection, the Reserva Natural de Vaquerias and the Reserva Natural de Fauna Laguna De Felipa.

### Goals

- Develop a base study and blue print of the Management Plan for Mar Chiquita as Ramsar site. This project is already being developed;
- Exchange of students and educational material with Tracy Aviary, Salt Lake City, USA;
- Prepare a book on Mar Chiquita that summarises present knowledge about the lake;
- Support local groups for the development of a local NGO.

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## Norfolk & Suffolk Broads; Great Britain

The mosaic landscape of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads is treasured as a cultural and historical heritage of the people alongside with its natural values. Therefore, management of recreation, tourism and boating is one of the major focuses of the Broads Authority and BTCV, the organisations striving for the sustainable development of the UK's premier wetland.

### Goals

- Develop a GIS-based (Geographical Information System) vision for the Broads landscape that takes into account the impacts of climate change, social and economic influences over the next 100 years;
- Develop a strategy for the research, monitoring, restoration and management of rivers and broads and for sustainable tourism;
- Develop a strategic, integrated approach to managing water space;
- Implement the Broads Boating Holidays Project Action Plan;
- Develop and implement a Rights of Way Improvement Plan for the Broads;
- Develop and implement a sustainable Sediment Management Strategy;
- Promote and raise awareness of the Broads as a member of the national park family;
- Provide a wide range of opportunities enabling volunteers to take an active role in the management of the Broads.



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## Individual Goals of Living Lakes Members

### Laguna La Nava; Spain

The steppe lake La Nava is located in north-western Spain on the Tierra de Campos Plateau near Palencia. It is fed by two rivers, the Valdejinete and Retortillo. In the 1950s La Nava was nearly drained through the construction of 15 large and many small canals and ditches, to create arable land. 300 ha of the original steppe lakes was finally restored in 1990 resulting from the efforts of the Fundación Global Nature. Until today, La Nava has become again an internationally important nature reserve and resting place for migratory birds.

#### Goals

- Increasing the flooded area;
- Programme for improving water quality and natural vegetation (afforestation works);
- Environmental education about the lagoons;
- Including wetlands in national and international protection programmes;
- Implementing a Management Plan and an Agro-environmental Plan;
- Publishing brochures, videos and other information in order to inform the public about the projects.



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### Lake Constance; Germany, Switzerland, Austria

Lake Constance is the third largest freshwater lake in Central Europe. 2.2 million people live and work in the Lake Constance region, covering an area of about 12,500 square kilometres. In spite of a wide variety of human activities, Lake Constance has preserved a natural landscape with rich biological diversity. The Lake Constance Foundation focuses mainly on sustainable tourism, organic farming and renewable energies.

#### Goals

- Implement ECOLUP project (Ecological Land Use Planning) in additional communities at Lake Constance and other regions;
- Develop ECOLUP in other parts in the framework of land use planning and establish a monitoring system at communal and regional level;
- Promote efforts for the application for Lake Constance as UNESCO world heritage site in completing a management plan and a concept for monitoring;
- Increase of organic food production and promotion of the distribution to canteens and restaurants. Establish consulting centres, develop training courses for cooks and generate a specific trade mark;
- Promote Lake Constance as a learning area and a model project for sustainable tourism;
- Extend the ECOCAMPING Project to other lake regions in Germany and Europe.



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## Lake Balaton; Hungary

Simultaneously, this largest freshwater body in Central Europe provides habitat for some 250 bird species and holiday resorts for millions of tourists every year. High recognition of the importance of Lake Balaton as a biodiversity-rich ecosystem led to the establishment of the Lake Balaton Highlands National Park in 1997 and Ramsar Convention's protection of the lake area. More than 10,000 volunteers in 24 civil groups are united by the Association of Civil Organisations at Lake Balaton, which sets to achieve the following goals during the next five years.

### Goals

- Improve environmental awareness of local people and increase their participation in decision making;
- Restoration of springs, tributaries, wetlands and lake environment;
- Establish an ecological information and education centre;
- Promotion of renewable energy use (solar, biomass);
- Development of sewage treatment through the promotion of small-scale treatment units;
- Establish a regional sustainable tourism project to achieve nature protection goals.



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## Lake Võrtsjärv and Peipsi; Estonia and Russia

Lake Peipsi and Lake Võrtsjärv, large shallow lakes situated in Northern Europe, are part of the Baltic Sea basin. The two lakes are connected by the Emajõgi river which drains from Lake Võrtsjärv to Lake Peipsi. Võrtsjärv is the largest lake within the boundaries of Estonia with a surface area of 270 square kilometres. The area of Lake Peipsi is 3,555 square kilometres, of which 44 % belongs to the Republic of Estonia and 56 % to the Russian Federation. Both lakes suffer from eutrophication due to high nutrient loads from agriculture and industrial waste water.

### Goals

- Maintaining the natural and ecological system of the lakes at least on the same level;
- Enhancing sustainable development through:
  - Supporting organic farming efforts;
  - Furthering environmentally friendly tourism;
  - Protecting rich cultural heritage of the region;
  - Promoting alternative and small scale business sectors.



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## Individual Goals of Living Lakes Members

### Milicz Ponds; Poland

Many of the man-made Milicz Ponds can hardly be distinguished from natural ones. A view obviously shared by the animals, as many species live there: 13 amphibian species, 250 bird species of which 170 are local nesters, and 44 different mammals. However, this paradise is under severe pressure from the conversion of meadows to farmland and from intensive land use. The objective of the Polish Living Lakes partner organisation Pro Natura is to secure appropriate use of the meadows and preservation of the ponds.

#### Goals

- Sustainable development of the Barycz Valley Forum (first as an informal, then as a formal partnership) for the implementation and monitoring of the regional strategy according to the Agenda 21 requirements put in place;
- Adoption of the management plan of the Barycz Valley Landscape Park (5 years perspective);
- Bicycle tourism system: The Bicycle trail of the Barycz Valley is developed and promoted;
- Model integrated watershed approach to be continued on a larger area and with broader scope of activities, with additional water and wastewater management elements: restoration of the stream course, sewage treatment plant for one village;
- At least 1,000 ha owned or managed by the PTPP „pro Natura“.



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### Nestos Lakes; Greece

The 18 small Nestos Lakes and 8 brackish lagoons are part of the large Nestos Delta, located about 200 km east of Thessaloniki in the northeast of Greece. More than 320 species of birds, many rare reptiles and freshwater fish live in or around the lakes and lagoons, which are part of the planned North-Eastern Greek Wetland National Park - one of the most important wetlands in Europe.

#### Goals

- Install the National Park, including all wetlands;
- Set up a management authority with staff, equipment and the power to make decisions;
- Elaborate a management plan for the whole area;
- Re-introduce water buffaloes for wetland management and as tourism attraction;
- Create a self-sufficient environmental education and information centre for EPO with a large „Habitat Garden“;
- Promote ecological farming as land use priority in the buffer zones of the park;
- Registration as Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO).



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## Lake Victoria; Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Lake Victoria, is bordered by Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. With a surface area of 69,490 square kilometres it is the world's largest tropical lake. A population of over 30 million people lives in its basin. The ecological health of Lake Victoria has been affected profoundly as a result of a rapidly growing population, clearance of natural vegetation along the shores, a booming fish-export industry, the introduction of exotic plant and animal species, prolific growth of algae, and dumping of untreated effluent.

### Goals

- Empowerment of the local communities to use the Lake resources productively and economically;
- Provision of an enabling atmosphere for a peaceful use of the Lakes resources;
- Development of micro-credit facility for purposes of enhancing the economic level of the communities around the Lake;
- Carrying out of research activities for purposes of improving the state of the lake's bio-diversity;
- Development of sound policies with a view to improving the management of the lake's resources;
- Coordination of other non-governmental organisations in their pursuit for a balanced and unduplicated service;
- Operation of an Institute of Lake's Management and Development;
- Collaboration with other players in the region including governments in their effort to provide adequate services.



### OSIENALA (Friends of Lake Victoria)

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## Lake St. Lucia; South Africa

Lake St. Lucia is the oldest protected area in Africa and the core of the 2,550 square kilometres Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park and World Heritage Area. Lake St. Lucia was one of the founder members of the Living Lakes network, building on the lessons learnt through a campaign to save the park from open cast dune mining. The network partners work closely with the agencies involved in the management of the park and World Heritage Area, and other NGO's working in the area, to promote and support the achievement of the following goals.

### Goals

- The establishment of a long term Rare and Endemic Inventory and Research Programme;
- The consolidation of the existing and potential conservation areas surrounding the World Heritage Area on to the Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park to effectively consolidate the ecosystem functioning under a single integrated management framework;
- The development and implementation of a conservation-based Community Development and Entrepreneurship Programme throughout all the rural communities neighbouring the lake and surrounding areas;
- The formal protection of the designated lake and park wilderness areas under the auspices of relevant national and international legislation;
- The development and implementation of a comprehensive Environmental Education and Awareness Programme;



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### The Wilderness Foundation

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## Individual Goals of Living Lakes Members

### Lake Uluabat; Turkey

Lake Uluabat is located in the north-western part of Turkey and is one of nine RAMSAR sites in the country. The lake has a surface of 135 square kilometres. Problems arise from the introduction of untreated industrial and communal waste water, pesticides and fertilisers, over-fishing and dams. The main goal of our partner organisation and the Turkish Ministry of Environment is sustainable development in the lake region to become an example for other Turkish RAMSAR sites.

#### Goals

- Facilitate ongoing involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of the Lake Uluabat Management Plan, which was prepared by the Turkish Ministry of Environment and WWF Turkey with active participation of all stakeholders in April 2002, by establishing a local steering committee;
- Disseminate lessons learned to stakeholders at other Ramsar sites and government institutions in charge of sustainable management at Ramsar sites of Turkey;
- Support the creation of alternative economic activities and increase awareness on the use of natural resources of the local people to decrease the stress on the lake (ecotourism, handicrafts, etc);
- Continue monitoring of the lake's ecological values and wildlife, and conduct researches whilst ensuring the participation of local NGOs and university;
- Support the activities based on the pollution control in Lake Uluabat.



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### Dead Sea; Israel, Jordan and Palestine

The Dead Sea is extremely threatened due to excessive water withdrawal from the western part of the lake, and from Jordan River, the Dead Sea's biggest in-flow river. Farmers use Jordan River water to irrigate their fields and fruit plantations, the city dwellers as drinking and industrial water. The development of ecotourism offers good chances to raise awareness of the importance of the Dead Sea not only for agriculture and industry, but internationally, also for the still evolving tourism sector.

#### Goals

- Assist the advocacy of Israeli, Palestinian and donor countries on the issue of sewage as well as unsanitary dumping of solid waste;
- Support the Jordan, Israel and Palestinian Authorities to develop a common vision for the future of the Dead Sea Basin;
- Continuing the work of the Mountain Aquifer Project;
- Further the acknowledgment as a World Heritage Site.



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## Tengiz and Korgalzhynski Lakes; Kazakhstan

The steppe lakes Tengiz and Korgalzhynski are located in Kazakhstan, a country that borders on China to the east, and on Russia to the west and north. Lake Tengiz is fed by the Nura river, but, due to the lack of an out-flowing river, the lake's water is salty. In 1968 large sections were placed under protection. In the marked-off zone, Kazakh and German biologists counted 340 plant, 318 bird, and 50 mammal species, among them saiga antelopes and steppe wolves.

### Goals

- Nomination as a World Heritage Site;
- Establish a Biosphere reserve;
- Development of eco-tourism in the region with local participation;
- Sustainable land use around the lakes;
- Establishing a complete protection of the core zone through the enlarging of the ranger staff and building of a number of protection and observation posts;
- Public environmental awareness through giving lectures at schools, organisation of competitions and summer camps.



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## Lake Baikal; Russia

Lake Baikal is located in the south of Siberia, close to the Russian-Mongolian border. The species diversity in Lake Baikal is the highest among all the world's lakes. Past crisis in Russia, followed by a rapid economic growth, caused a strong pressure on the lake's ecosystem. Dealing with such a complex and multilevel problem our partners make focus on young generations and work to promote sustainable nature use in the lake region.

### Goals

- Promote environmental education and public awareness in the Baikal region;
- Develop co-operation between NGOs, local/regional governments and business;
- Broaden access to ecological information for different groups of population and their participation in policy-making;
- Support ecological initiatives of educational institutions and youth;
- Integrate IT-technologies and multimedia resources in environmental activities;
- Continue projects on development of ecotourism and volunteerism as well as promotion of sustainable tourism at Lake Baikal.



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## Individual Goals of Living Lakes Members

### Lake Poyang; China

The Mountain River Lake Sustainable Development Association (MRLSD), the Chinese Living Lakes partner organisation is committed to promote of activities to protect and develop China's largest freshwater lake and its watershed and to solve the problems of ecological degradation and poverty. The challenge is to maintain the still good ecological character of the site and at the same time to enable local people to achieve a higher living standard. MRLSD supports the MRL (Mountain-River-Lake) programme, which commenced in 1985 by the Jiangxi provincial government. It aims to promote sustainable development of the region and to implement Agenda 21 issues.

#### Goals

- Set up permanent key protection areas for migrant birds (White crane, etc.);
- Set up bases for scientific research and education;
- Help the local communities to develop environmental sound economies (organic agriculture, eco-tourism, etc.);
- Set up demonstration areas for better protection of the wetland resources and biodiversity.



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### Lake Biwa; Japan

The last 50 years of its some 4-million-long life have been the most challenging for Lake Biwa. Although humans had settled around the lake shores 20,000 years ago, it is the late 20<sup>th</sup> century explosive growth of population, trade and industry that caused drastic changes in the lake's ecosystem. Today both, official and private nature protection associations, work closely together developing sustainable development schemes for the benefit of the local people and fauna and flora of Lake Biwa region.

#### Goals

- Registration of Lake Biwa as a World Heritage Site;
- Expanding the network of river basin committees for the major rivers flowing into the lake;
- Restore 60 ha of wetlands.



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## Laguna de Bay; Philippines

Laguna de Bay is the largest inland body of water in the Philippines with an area of 900 square kilometres. It is a major lifeline for the communities residing in its watershed including Metropolitan Manila. Being a multi-use resource, the lake is an indispensable source of water for fishing, irrigation, power supply, recreation, navigation and for domestic use. Laguna de Bay's most pressing problems are siltation and pollution from domestic, agricultural and industrial waste.

### Goals

- To establish an information and communication network that will foster dialogue and exchange of knowledge among stakeholders towards a more concerted effort in the conservation and management of the lake;
- To strengthen partnerships with local communities by involving local government units in lake stewardship projects (i.e. local ecotourism efforts);
- To broaden the support base of CLEAR by soliciting the support of local industries in lake conservation efforts;
- To hold the 10<sup>th</sup> Living Lakes Conference in 2005.



**CLEAR - Conservation of Laguna de Bay's Environment and Resources.** A tripartite partnership of:

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## Lake Jempang (Mahakam); Indonesia

The Mahakam Wetland comprises the lakes Danau Jempang, Danau Melintang and Danau Semayang, and is located in a geological depression covering an area of about 4,000 square kilometres. The abundance of flora and fauna, such as the very rare Irrawaddy freshwater dolphin, is threatened by various human activities such as dam constructions, poaching, introduction of pesticides and gold mining.

### Goals

- Inventory and effective protection of important fish spawning freshwater swamps connecting with the lakes;
- Biodiversity assessment surveys (fish and migratory bird species);
- Socio-economic assessment surveys, with local residents and fishermen about i.e. fishing, reforestation, wildlife (i.e. freshwater dolphins), protected areas;
- Raising environmental awareness among local residents with regard to use of natural resources; i.e. fishing using sustainable fishing techniques, prevention and control of forest fires;
- Lobby for increased law enforcement and create a patrolling network to prevent illegal fishing techniques (poison, electricity) and illegal logging.



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## Associated Member Organisations

### **Lago Enriquillo and Lac Azuéli; Haiti and Dominican Republic**

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### **Lake Uvs; Mongolia**

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