

## Newsletter Topics

3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2014

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The "lake family" is meeting this year at the enchanting Poyang Lake in China.

## Preface

Dear Readers,

Thank you for taking time to read our newsletter. We would like to whisk you away to visit wildcats in the German wine region; invite you to the Living Lakes Conference in China; and to inform you about the world-wide importance of complex business and biodiversity themed issues.

Under the framework of various projects that have been ongoing for a few years now, we have created and maintained close contacts to organic vintners motivated to produce better wines while also making a contribution to protecting rare species of plants and animals. Now their associated organization, ECOVIN, is broadening its engagement beyond local vineyards to help support us with our exciting new Wildcats Project in the Rhineland-Palatinate region.

Next to climate change, biodiversity is the second largest issue at hand concerning humanity's survival. Powerful governments and NGOs can not tackle this issue alone, however. In order to do so, we also need large and small businesses (such as winemakers) to engage in environmental protection and biodiversity preservation. This can either entail accepting additional responsibilities or taking voluntary ac-

tions. We have analyzed both approaches and determined that voluntary engagement is important and useful, but can not accomplish what needs to be done alone. We are going to therefore continue our fight for businesses to (be required to) support habitats for endangered plants and animals under the framework of our Business and Biodiversity campaigns.

Three years without a Living Lakes Conference is like a year without Christmas for our Lakes-Network. That is why we are especially excited that at the end of this year (after thousands of mails, web-conferences, and meetings for our small successful projects) we will be holding the 14th Living Lakes Conference at Poyang Lake in China. The "lake family" will be meeting for discussions, presentations, and excursions in order to recharge their energy and formulate new ideas for their important work in the year to come.

Best Regards,

*Jörg Dürr-Pucher*

Jörg Dürr-Pucher  
Board of Directors  
Global Nature Fund



## We Thank You!

Quilting for Lakes

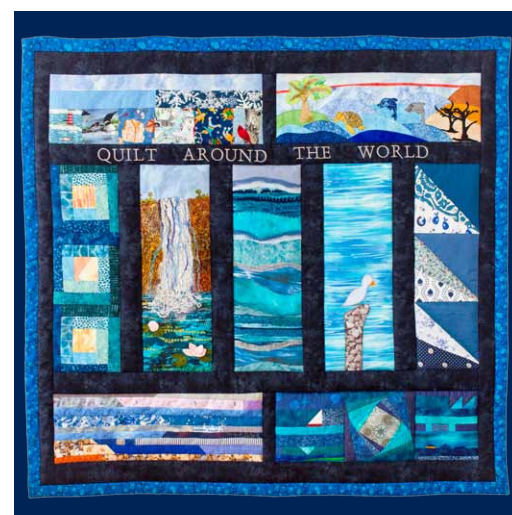
The "Quilt around the World" movement had a wonderful idea this summer. The organizers for the international Quilt and Patchwork community in Munich collected € 1,000 of registration fees from one competition and donated it to the GNF's "Living Lakes" water conservation project.

The "Water for the World" themed competition drew participants between 11 and 80 years of age from all over the globe. A lot of beautiful work came

out of their efforts. When we see an exemplary idea, we like to further it. The beautiful quilt can be viewed at: [www.globalnature.org/quilting](http://www.globalnature.org/quilting). (mu)



*If you have similar ideas you would like to share in order to help generate donations for the GNF and the "Living Lakes", please feel welcome to contact us at: [info@globalnature.org](mailto:info@globalnature.org)*





Safe trails for the wildcats -- between grapevines and chequers trees.

## Happy Trails For Wildcats in the Wine Region

At first glance, wildcats and vineyards do not seem to have much in common. So why winemakers in the Nahe region have taken an interest in protecting them is an intriguing story. Because of intensive hunting, the wildcat population had been nearly decimated in Europe 150 years ago. Since then, wildcats have been making a slow comeback in the few remaining natural forests of Thuringia and the Rhineland-Palatinate. For migratory purposes and to help isolated populations come together to increase genetic exchange, these shy animals need secure corridors to travel. However, in an intensively used and increasingly fragmented landscape, there are more and more barriers in their way, and many fall victim to car traffic in the night. The destruction of the few migratory corridors they have left is therefore fatal for wildcats.

Organic winemakers have been looking beyond the borders of their own operations and taking on additional social responsibilities. In the Nahe wine region, the shy wildcats have been benefiting from these activities and projects. Winemakers from Ruemmelshausen have been actively supporting a citizen's initiative to prevent the deforestation of the Buedesheim Wood. This natural habitat could fall victim to rock mining as many others have in the past. The ancient wood in Buedesheim is the home to some

of the few remaining chequer trees and service trees that grow in the wild. However, these will be completely destroyed and replaced by a lifeless gravel pit if rock mining is allowed. This would be tragic for such an ecologically healthy habitat that is also the place of refuge for 70 species of birds, including the elegant Eurasian sparrowhawk. The forest is also part of a Germany-wide wildlife corridor and happens to be the home for wildcats. It is here that the common interests of winemakers and wildcats intersect. "If the forest is destroyed," explains local winemaker Georg Forster, "cold air from the Hunsrueck mountains will flow uninhibited into the vineyards where Pinot Noir is cultivated. The current microclimate would change, making the soils dryer. This would degenerate the quality of the wine."

Hence winemaking and wildcats find companionship. The preservation of wildcat habitat in the wine region can therefore lead to healthy microclimates that are good for biodiversity and good for wine. (mu,ts)

Further information:

[www.globalnature.org/project-wildcat](http://www.globalnature.org/project-wildcat)



Federal Ministry  
of Labour and Social Affairs



## GNF ECOVIN Project Organic Winemaking

30 small and medium sized organic winemakers are working with the GNF on Biodiversity themed initiatives under the framework of a joint project that is supported by the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Selected ECOVIN winemakers underwent Biodiversity Checks to generate concrete data that can be used to analyze the effects vineyards have on biodiversity. In cooperation with the winemakers, actionable measures were developed and implemented in order to further integrate biodiversity into their business activities.

[www.globalnature.org/vineyard](http://www.globalnature.org/vineyard)

**Wildcats Need Friends!  
Your Donation Can Help!**

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The Eurasian Sparrowhawk also feels at home around the vineyards.



## Nature as the Basis for Business

### Innovative Incentives for More Biodiversity

Healthy ecosystems and biodiversity are fundamental components to human existence. Not only do they make our lives possible but they are also valuable economic resources. Ironically, considering their large economic value, a disproportionately small amount of financial support is given to biodiversity preservation. During the 2012 Convention on Biological Diversity Conference held in India, experts presented their estimate that a yearly sum of between 150 and 440 billion US dollars would be required to maintain global ecosystems in their current condition. In reality, the international community as a whole only provides 52 billion US dollars annually for this purpose. Because many ecosystems (such as forests and aquatic areas) are already so damaged, resources for ecosystem rehabilitation would be required in addition to those allocated for preservation.

Economic instruments or so-called “natural capital markets” are considered to have the potential to close this financial gap by drawing upon the private sector. The Global Nature Fund (GNF) and the Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DUH) examined two such natural capital market instru-

ments: biodiversity offsets and payments for ecosystem services.

Biodiversity offsets are designed around legally prescribed measures for counteracting negative impacts to or replacing damaged habitats. In contrast to biodiversity offsets, payments for ecosystem services are based on the principle of voluntary regulation. The idea behind this mechanism is that those who profit from the use of ecosystems will make contractual payments in the amount necessary for locals to maintain the ecosystem in a healthy condition.

This study by the GNF and DUH helps spread awareness about how these financial instruments are implemented while providing insight into the limitations of each approach. (th)

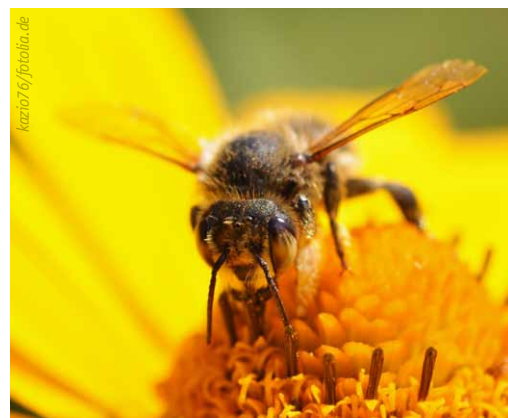
*The “Markets for Natural Capital: Status Quo and Prospects” report and further information for the non-profit, business, and financial sectors is available for download at:*  
[www.globalnature.org/biodiversity-markets](http://www.globalnature.org/biodiversity-markets)  
[www.naturalcapitalmarkets.org](http://www.naturalcapitalmarkets.org)



Federal Ministry for the  
Environment, Nature Conservation,  
Building and Nuclear Safety



Federal Agency  
for Nature  
Conservation



*Bees are irreplaceable service providers for nature and people.*



*Lake Constance is the source of fresh drinking water for 4.5 million people in Germany and Switzerland.*

## 14<sup>th</sup> Living Lakes Conference

### Nanchang, China

Achieving the optimal use and protection of water resources gains primary importance in light of the growing world population. Economic considerations also make it necessary to place the protection of lakes and aquatic zones on the forefront. Aquatic ecosystems are the source of life for people, providing them with fresh water, food, and recreation, which makes a decisive impact on our quality

of life. Increasing urbanization is one of the biggest threats for lakes and aquatic zones. Not surprisingly, infrastructure in expanding cities is also becoming more and more dependent upon these sensitive ecosystems remaining intact.

The 14<sup>th</sup> International Living Lakes Conference is therefore setting the agenda around “Lakes in Densely Populated Re-

gions: Balance between People and Nature”. The Jiangxi Provincial Government, the Global Nature Fund, Ramsar, the Jiangxi Department of Science & Technology, the Jiangxi Academy of Sciences, Mountain River Lake Sustainable Development (MRLSD), and MRLDO invite you to join them in Nanchang, China, from November 20th to 23rd. This conference will provide a forum for scientists, water conservation experts, local/regional representatives, and political decision makers, including the Jiangxi Provincial President. The conference’s multi-disciplinary composition further develops the portfolio of experiences and outstanding examples, setting the stage for the development of the complex solutions required to address the diverse interests involved in water resource management. (mv)

*The GNF cordially invites you to take an active part in the dialogue over lake conservation. All conference related information can be found at the GNF website under: [www.globalnature.org/14LLC](http://www.globalnature.org/14LLC)*



*Poyang Lake is a Ramsar Site: snow cranes and 300 other species of birds are protected here.*

## News

### Publications and Online Information

#### GNF Annual Report 2013 / 2014

Our annual report, containing thorough updates on current GNF projects and activities, can be downloaded in English or German under: [www.globalnature.org/publications](http://www.globalnature.org/publications)

#### "Markets for Natural Capital: Status Quo and Prospects" Study

Under the framework of our "Online Information Platform for Biodiversity Markets, Germany" project, a report along with three tool-kits (for the private, financial, and non-profit sectors) were made available in June. All four publications can be found and downloaded in English and German under: [www.globalnature.org/biodiversity-markets](http://www.globalnature.org/biodiversity-markets)

#### "Sustainable Raw Materials for the German Automobile Sector: Challenges and Solutions" Study

Together with SÜDWIND and the Collaborating Center on Sustainable Consumption and Production, the GNF published this comprehensive study under the framework of the "Sustainable raw material exploitation and resource efficiency through sustainable resource consumption in the automobile sector in Germany" project. The study can be found in German under: [www.globalnature.org/automobile-sector](http://www.globalnature.org/automobile-sector)

#### "Energy and Water Solutions in sub-Saharan Africa" Conference

Experts and representatives from international organizations and research institutions in the renewable energy and water sectors met in Radolfzell, Germany, on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of October, 2014. The conference was organized by the GNF together with OSRAM and Light for Life under the framework of their joint project, "Solar Energy for Rural Kenya." In addition to workshops and interesting presentations related to the project's Water-Energy-Stations (or WE!Hubs), participants also enjoyed a trip to the nearby Mauenheim bioenergy township.

Further information, presentations and a handbook are available under:

[www.globalnature.org/energy-water-conference](http://www.globalnature.org/energy-water-conference) and [www.globalnature.org/solar-kenya](http://www.globalnature.org/solar-kenya)

#### GNF at Facebook

Visit us at Facebook and tell us your opinion!

[www.facebook.com/globalnature.org](http://www.facebook.com/globalnature.org)



## Events/Presentations

### October – December 2014

October 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014

#### European River Restoration Conference

Vienna, Austria

[www.errc2014.eu](http://www.errc2014.eu)

November 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014

#### International Conference for the Sustainable Development of the Jordan River

Dead Sea, Jordan

[www.globalnature.org/swim-jordan](http://www.globalnature.org/swim-jordan)

November 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014

#### 14<sup>th</sup> Living lakes Conference: "Lakes in Densely Populated Regions"

Nanchang, China

[www.globalnature.org/14LLC](http://www.globalnature.org/14LLC)

till June 2015

#### Exhibition for Saving the Jordan River

Arche Noah, Maasstraat 14,

3313 CR Dordrecht, Netherlands

[www.globalnature.org/Exhibition-Jordan](http://www.globalnature.org/Exhibition-Jordan)

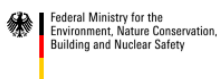
#### GNF-Website

In October, 2014, GNF launched their newly redesigned and restructured website – now compatible with mobile devices. The layout makes it easy to gain a quick overview of the GNF's activities and quickly access information. All information is available in English and German.

[www.globalnature.org](http://www.globalnature.org)



## GNF projects are supported by



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