

Living Lakes Assembly 2014

World Café „Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation” - Summary

Challenges

- Growing economy and corresponding growing emissions
- Rapidly growing population
- Increasing conflicts between the interests of population /economic interests /nature protection
- Extreme weather events (storms, droughts, floods ...)
- Increasing water scarcity
- New pests in agriculture
- Rising sea level

....the environmental challenges provoked by climate change are well known.

Challenges for organizations promoting climate mitigation in lake regions

- Lack of sound information / different scenarios
- Lack of resources to realize own studies
- Lack of evidence based research
- Management-conflicts: Should we work towards the protection of the ecosystem what it should be or what it will be because of climate change (e.g. salination of coastal fresh water lakes)
- Difficulties to convince stakeholders that impacts of climate change will be negative (e.g. tourism sector at Lake Constance is happy because of the longer tourism season)
- Ongoing discussion: Are the negative impacts because of climate change or is it just a natural evolution
- Lack of financing of short term practical measures

Solutions

- Soft engineering solutions instead of hard engineering (e.g. intact mangrove forest for flood protection)
- Implementation of traditional technologies = low costs = can be implemented in poor countries
- Short term measures, e.g. soil conservation, reforestation
- Include social and economic aspects into modeling /scenarios
- Improve disaster control and management
- All development activities should include low carbon solutions
- Promote multifunctional (waste)water storage systems

- Argue with the climate change impacts on small lakes, because they are very visible
- Collect evidence based arguments related to our daily life
- Support /participate in evidence based research
- Realize monitoring of the lake and the ecosystem functions to proof if political decision were right or not appropriate
- Apply the ecological handprint methodology (Salvador Peniche will provide information)

Next steps within the Living Lakes Network

What	Who	When
Exchange modules regarding education on risks /mitigation /adaptation	CLEAR, Phillipines	
Documentation of successful adaptation measures		
Simple assessment of all Living Lakes regarding risks because of climate change	GNF with information from all LL partners	
Living Lakes Position Paper with practical recommendations – based on the results of the assessment	GNF with input from various LL partners (who would be part of the working group)	
Establish pilot adaptation sites (joint project supported by GEF?)		
Share risk and adaptation strategies for municipalities – elaborated by LL partners	Coordination GNF	
Strengthen the contacts to Living Lakes Municipalities, e.g. create LL Municipalities section		
Webinars on Climate Change adaptation for LL partners /managers of lakes in similar situations (e.g. coastal lakes in Europe)	Broads	
Position paper regarding the need of evidence based research for the next COP 21	??, Wildland Trust, South Africa	
Exchange information on useful equipments and methodologies of monitoring		
Promote the principles of sustainable urban drainage systems for new urbanisations	John Pinder will provide more information	
Compensate our own flights		