

## Reporting from World Café 1 – Restoration – Udo Gattenlöhner

### **General Aspects:**

- A proper definition of restoration is essential. Here it was discussed from an ecosystem rehabilitation approach. Ecosystems are very complex and interconnected => a holistic approach is crucial. Topics are interrelated (water, biodiversity, climate change).
- Social challenges must not be underestimated.
- Why restoration: the main reasons and objectives for restoration must be defined.

### **Challenges expressed by the attendees are:**

- Time is lacking, money is scarce.
- Climate Change contributes negatively to the challenges.
- Will and awareness on community level often insufficient
- How to evaluate the benefit of restoration. And how share the benefit.
- Lack of consensus - in particular with agencies - due to their limited agenda.
- Political framework (short terms).
- Conflict of interests -> social challenges
- Limitations of restoration to bring back nature!?
- Lack of understanding how ecosystems function? => Science. When get started?
- Concept of restoration: What are we restoring to?
- No universal standards -> limits of transferability

### **Solutions expressed during the Session:**

- A “cause oriented” approach is required.
- “Natural succession” is often useful. Evolution.
- Use existing tools, i.e. methodological procedures and standards from Europarc, Conservation Action Planning (CAP), PES, Agenda 21, etc.
- Restoration of partially affected sites better than totally damaged.
- Develop a cultural intelligence = with nature vs. against nature
- More exchange between lake regions.
- Links basic needs with restoration, in particular in poorer countries, and a transparent and participatory approach.
- Better law enforcement.
- Holistic and interdisciplinary approach (Integrated Water Resources Management)

## **Living Lakes Actions:**

- Start with small and inexpensive interventions with quick results (i.e. Green Filters, mangroves) and define clear and achievable goals and socio-economic benefits.
- Use community level as the custodians for responsibility and stewardship instead of relying too much on administration. LL success factor is the local level approach (NGO, CBO, community) without too much bureaucracy and administration.
- Strong links between eco-tourism and restoration.
- Involvement of young generation is key.
- Nature conservation vs. restoration. Pursue an open and honest discussion that restoration might not look good (sexy) in the beginning
- Communication and education are important. New channels and social media.

*ug, GNF, 8. December 2014*