

Newsletter Topics

3rd Quarter 2015

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The young participants from all over Europe

Preface

Dear Readers,

At the beginning of September, it was my pleasure and a great honour to welcome all participants of the SEKISUI European Children's Eco Summit 2015 at the Welcome Party in the City of Constance. I was especially pleased to welcome the 26 adolescents from seven European countries, who were about to experience a diverse programme at Lake Constance. In the sense of Herbert Grönemeyer's "Kinder an die Macht (Children in Charge)", the young people should take command in terms of environmental issues, frame their ideas for the protection of nature, and present them to the management of SEKISUI.

So much for silly season – the GNF launched several new projects during the

hot summer months. Our Business & Biodiversity unit alone started three projects in Germany, while another three projects in the field of nature conservation and development cooperation were initiated in Africa. Next to fighting illegal poaching activities, and saving populations and habitats of rhinoceros, lions, and elephants, they involve Massai herders in the implementation process.



Marion Hammerl
President of the
Global Nature Fund



SEKISUI European Children's Eco Summit 2015

Let the children take command!

In the course of this tree-days event, 26 young people from seven European countries had the possibility of getting to know each other while framing their own ideas and suggestions on environmental protection. An interesting programme for the young winners of a company-internal photography competition, for their parents, Board members and the president of SEKISUI Chemical as well as participants from Lake Constance structured these days in September.

The Welcome Party in Konstanz was followed by a joint planting activity of wil-

low saplings at the creek Radolfzeller Aach. The young trees will ensure habitat and basic food resources of Beaver families in the area. Afterwards, the children could press apple juice, build insect hotels, or create music instruments out of natural materials in further practical workshops.

In the framework of the event, the young participants developed messages, recommending measures for environmental protection on private as well as company scale. For example, besides solar panels on company buildings, the acquisition



SEKISUI President Koge and the young people at the joint planting activity

and usage of hybrid-cars would contribute to a positive ecological footprint of the corporation. In the end of the event, Teiji Koge, President of SEKISUI, committed to foster and expand further cooperation of the company with NGOs. SEKISUI and GNF have been cooperating since 2012. As part of this collaboration, the issue of biodiversity shall get entrenched into quality- and environmental management policies in SEKISUI's European company branches. (SH)



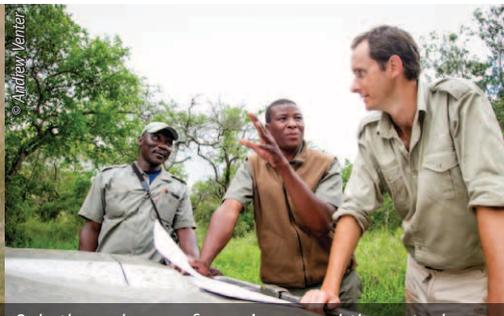
Field trip: Cross-country geocaching tour



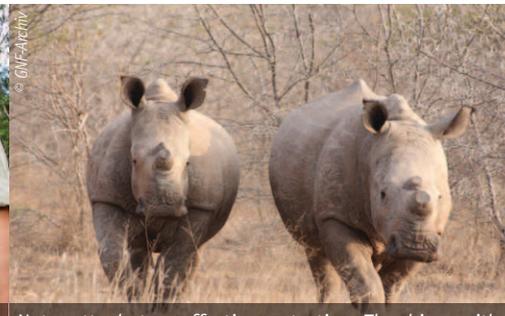
Workshop: Building insect hotels



© Athanas/AMF
Transnational protecting measures are important to elephants – since also poachers move on.



© Andrew Venturi
Only the exchange of experiences and the mutual support make the wildlife preserves safer.



© GNF-Archiv
Not pretty, but an effective protection. The rhinos with clipped horns are valueless to poachers.

Fight against illegal Poaching in Southern and Eastern Africa

Africa's poaching issues are still a major challenge for all countries involved. The situation has dramatically worsened in recent years for the two African rhinoceros species – black and white rhinoceros – and for the African elephant as well. Poaching not only threatens the survival of these species, but also negatively affects the economic situation and future prospects of wildlife reserves and surrounding communities. Since 2012, Global Nature Fund promotes different campaigns for the protection of South African rhinos. Those safeguard activities are now included in the framework of a new project that, for the first time, will also include collaboration with actors from Mozambique. In addition, a second project has been launched in

order to protect wildlife by supporting the fight against elephant poaching in the border region between Kenya and Tanzania. Both projects aim at building local capacities, the implementation of concrete anti-poaching measures, and at fostering cross-border exchange and knowledge transfer. A well-coordinated cooperation between neighbouring countries with regard to poaching is essential for the protection of migratory species such as the elephant, because they often cross borders on their migratory routes. Unfortunately, such collaboration is rare in Southern and Eastern Africa. In many cases, the lack of cooperation facilitates smuggling and trafficking, allowing poachers to convey their illegal trophies between countries through porous bor-

ders. This is also an important aspect for the protection of rhinoceros, as Mozambique is one of the main smuggling routes for illegal rhino horn from South Africa.

The projects are supported by GIZ, on behalf of and financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB). (KT)



on behalf of



Natural Capital Valuation for German enterprises

Natural capital valuation has not yet been widely performed in Germany. However, important business risks and opportunities can remain undetected, when a company's environmental impact is neglected. In order to increase awareness and to facilitate first steps into the assessment of natural capital, Global Nature Fund will provide interested parties with useful information through webi-

nars, publications, network meetings and a conference. Furthermore, the Global Nature Fund is going to consult and support pilot companies in assessing and identifying impacts and dependencies on natural capital. Gathered experiences will be made available at network meetings and in online publications. (AP)

www.globalnature.org/en/themes---projects/business---biodiversity/network-natural-capital



© Begonia/Wikipedia
Companies depend on natural resources.



Conservation of Forest and Biodiversity Innovative financing mechanism

According to several studies, the protection of biodiversity requires financial means of approximately US\$ 300-400 billion annually. Since government and charitable conservation efforts are unable to raise such amounts of money, private investments are being considered as an alternative funding option. In a joint project, the Tropical Forest Foundation OroVerde and Global Nature Fund aim to identify innovative financ-

ing mechanism that generate both positive impacts on natural resources and society as well as a financial return. Several projects will be analysed through on-site case studies concerning their actual environmental impact, measurement methodology and financial return. (AP)

www.globalnature.org/en/themes---projects/business---biodiversity/forest-and-biodiversity-conservation



© GNF-Archiv
Private investments should grow.





Sacred and meanwhile unfortunately dangerous to health – the baptism sites at the Jordan River.



Too little water, too many goats – the soil erodes, the green shorelines disappear.



Otters and numerous other animal species depend on a living Jordan River.

The last Chance for the Jordan River

Saving a world's heritage!

Everyone knows the Jordan as a sacred site, where, for example, John the Baptist baptized Jesus Christ. Today, however, the murky and muddy water is a sad evidence for the river's pitiful state. Only a massive influx of freshwater could save this historical site. Is the Jordan already beyond remedy?

Masterplan unveiled

Global Nature Fund, EcoPeace and a range of scientists have worked on a study about saving the Jordan for the past three years. The European Union funded this exemplary cooperation, which resulted in the public release of a Master Plan for the Jordan's water management in Israel, Jordan and Palestine on June 10th, 2015. Now it is time for implementation.

Is there a solution to the Jordan's problems?

After 250 kilometres the sacred river Jordan flows into the Dead Sea, where

water levels have been decreasing rapidly in the past years, while the river itself is hardly better off. 98 % of its water is currently being drained, 50 % by Israel and almost the whole other half by Syria and Jordan. On top of that, the river is being abused as a sewage canal. More and more garbage, particularly plastic, can be found in the riverbed. Besides, intensive goat grazing agriculture along its shores causes erosion and the loss of riverside vegetation.

Dramatic loss of biodiversity

Millions of migratory bird species like the white stork need ecologically intact rest areas. The common otter is dependent on a healthy river ecosystem as well. However, more than a half of the Jordan's biodiversity is already destroyed. For recovering as an ecosystem and a natural source of water, the Jordan needs 400 to 600 million cubic meters of clean water per year. Providing that alone will require roughly 32 million US\$.

A plan gives hope

With 127 realistic measures, such as modernisation of pipeline systems, the use of smart green houses, and water saving technology for private households and tourism projects, the new study presents ways to help the Jordan River.

We intend to expand our set of measures for the implementation of the Master Plan, such as:

- Further awareness raising for the Master Plan in Europe and the Middle East
- Strengthening the implementation process through the establishment of an independent international commission for the Jordan river
- Evaluation and adjustment of restoration measures

Donors and investors for these investments have already been found. Furthermore, in places like Palestine, where political circumstances prevent such involvement, our Green Filter Plants can provide initial help.

Building pressure

With our Master Plan, we call for political liability for saving the Jordan. Future prospects for the whole region will be pretty gloomy otherwise. Water scarcity is going to further exacerbate the already tense political situation in the area. Therefore, saving the Jordan means peace building as well. (MU)

www.globalnature.org/jordan-master-plan

With your donation for Living Lakes you can help us fund and implement this and other important projects.

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Access & Benefit-Sharing Implementation in Germany

Access & Benefit-Sharing (ABS) stands for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilisation of genetic resources. It also allows providing countries and ethnic groups to set conditions for the access to these resources. Germany signed the international treaty addressing ABS, the Nagoya-Protocol, which became law in 2014 and must now be implemented in Germany. The project promotes dialogue

between users of genetic resources and national authorities in order to develop strategies for a practicable execution of the EU directive. In addition, the project aims to raise users' acceptance for ABS-related processes and to support them with the obligations arising from the regulation. (SG)

www.globalnature.org/en/themes---projects/business---biodiversity/access---benefit-sharing



Nature in laboratory scale



News

Publications and Online Information

Final Report: Regional NGO Master Plan for Sustainable Development in the Jordan Valley (June 2015)

Download: www.globalnature.org/swim-jordan



Awards:

- **5 June 2015:**
The Green Filter in San Miguel de Sema (Colombia) was honoured with the First Great Prize during the XII Planeta Azul Awards.
- **20 July 2015:**
EcoPeace was selected as one of three finalists in the Thies International River Prize for efforts in advancing rehabilitation of the Lower Jordan River. www.riverfoundation.org.au/riverprize_international.php
- **30 July 2015:**
The project "Greening of Company Premises" is awarded as "Project of the Week" in the frame of the UN Decade on Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 in Germany.
- **31 August 2015:**
The project "Biodiversity at Camping Sites in Germany" is awarded as "Project of the Week" in the frame of the UN Decade on Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 in Germany.

Events

October – December 2015

7 October 2015

Workshop Access & Benefit-Sharing (ABS)

Bonn, Germany

www.globalnature.org/ABS-Deutschland

3 - 6 November 2015

Project Meeting

"Mangrove Rehabilitation in Asia"

Thailand

www.globalnature.org/mangrove-network

30 November - 11 December 2015

United Nations Conference of Parties COP21 / CMP11

Paris, France

www.cop21.gouv.fr/en

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Current Impressions of the Mate Tea Project in Paraguay

GNF Projects are Supported by



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