

Newsletter Topics

4th Quarter 2015

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Preface

Dear Readers,

People claim the use of natural products and service ecosystems– but we also exhaust them. This is inevitable and also unproblematic as long as our impact does not exceed the ability of the biosphere to regenerate. But, where do we stand at the moment? Are we still living within the budgets of nature? A resource accounting, worldwide known as “footprint” has been developed in order to answer this question and estimate the resource dependency of our society.

The “footprint” approach aimed at the sustainability and the overall stability of the ecosystem Earth. Sustainability means to improve quality of life, while decreasing the human “footprint”. Impossible? No! Three strategies can help to reduce the “footprint” without compromising our quality of life. CO₂ represents 54 percent of the global footprint, therefore the decisions taken in Paris will be decisive. We can:

- sustainably increase the productivity of Nature, e.g. by reducing erosion,

maintenance of soil fertility or sustainable water use;

- use resources more efficiently, for example, through the use of renewable energy or natural circular economy; and
- consume less, for example, through reducing consumption rates and lowering the population growth.

To guarantee the success of these three strategies the engagement of all actors involved need to be ensured to get out of the ecological deficit. The only question is how – by design or by disaster? Who will decide – us or nature? A partial answer to this was hopefully given at the World Climate Conference in Paris.



Sebastian Winkler
GNF Board Member



Healthy mangrove forest in Cambodia.

A four-year Project to protect Mangroves

Interesting new approaches are shown

In the framework of a four-years project to protect mangroves of GNF a closing conference with all project partners of five countries took place in Thailand. In the context of the event the participants examined reforested locations of mangroves and exchanged protection strategies. The involvement of the local population is a central concern in the implementation of the measures. Apart from the protection and the reforestation of the mangrove forests – more than 100 hectares were already restored – it is very important to develop new sources of income for the local people. Another of our objectives is to use the local knowledge to ensure the sustainability of the activities.

In the context of the project people were allowed to involve themselves in the restoration measures. Mangrove forests play an essential role for the livelihoods of the people – as fishing grounds, source of raw material, lifesaving buffer against Tsunamis – and as a carbon-sink.

More than 20,000 people – children, adolescent and adults – were informed about the protection of valuable wetland forests through various environmental education measures. An English handbook sums up the results and the experiences. It can be downloaded free of charge from the GNF website. GNF will continue its mangroves protection activities in Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Cambodia in 2016. (KT)
www.globalnature.org/mangroves



Conference participants visit a project area.



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



Campsites – closeness to nature and relaxation.

Hiking trails – used and maintained for decades.

Open-air museum – preserving traditions.

Biodiversity in Tourism

Self-check for tourism companies

The “capital” of tourism are intact and attractive nature and culture – therefore maintaining biodiversity should be a priority of the companies involved. It is now getting easier for tourism companies, tour operators and touristic destinations to contribute to the protection and promotion of the biological diversity and to get attention for their dedication to sustainable development.

Self-check biodiversity

GNF, in cooperation with the partner organizations Ecotrans and adelphi, developed self-checks for tourist accommodations, restaurants, campsites, touristic regions, tour operators and travel agents with regards to biodiversity. Thereby, they are able to find out to what extent their contribution to further biodiversity can be improved. A comprehensive online

collection of information with numerous examples, publications, legal basis and contacts supports tourism managements.

Biodiversity in existing labels

The three partners mentioned above developed criteria for biodiversity and published them in a recommendation catalogue, which shed light on the plurality of standards, labels and awards in tourism. The spectrum reaches from the processing of 100%-certified sea fish to the near-natural shaping of outdoor areas in hotels. Standards organizations, that take all recommendations seriously, can claim that the protection of biodiversity takes an important role in their certification approaches.

Green travel card

A “Green Travel Map Germany” was upload-

ed to the online portal www.DestiNet.eu in order to help experts in tourism, tour operators and travellers to recognise sustainable tourism. There you can find best practice approaches for the valuation of biological diversity. All measures were realised in the context of projects for the integration of biodiversity in CSR-processes, supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation. (MR)

www.globalnature.org/en/themes---projects/business---biodiversity/csr-in-tourism



Tourism and Biodiversity in the Dominican Republic

The GNF is cooperating with the “Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit” (GIZ – German Association for International Cooperation) within the context of the “Biodiversity Partnership Mesoamerica” project. The first measure of this project was a seminar for hotels and tour operators in the Dominican Republic.

Tourists are associating the Dominican Republic with dream beaches under palms, beach parties and Caribbean rhythms. Apart from this, the Dominican Republic offers wide range of attractions for nature lovers. The so-called DomRep offers a rich array of flora and fauna due to the immense variety of habitats between coral reefs and mountain rain forests. Current statistics are showing a tendency for biodiversity in tourism; although 90 % of the tourists in the country are looking for beach vacation, about one third of the people visited one of the

protected areas in 2014. Without effective protection of the natural landscape, an expansion in a sustainable way is nearly impossible, considering that the DomRep is striving to grow by 10 million visitors in 2014. Fortunately, over one fourth of the Dominican surface is already under protection. This offers a chance to explore the natural landscapes of the island and moreover allows, tourists to contribute to the protection of the biodiversity of the DomRep.

About forty experts, hoteliers, tour organizers, restaurant owners and representatives of tourist locations participated in an educational seminar in Santo Domingo in November 2015 together with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. A self-check for biodiversity offered an assessment approach for the integration of measures to protect biodiversity in their respective markets. Measures to protect biodiversity are numerous: for example



The Caribbean offers more than beautiful beaches.

proper training for workers, information for visitors and customers and renouncing products that potentially damage biodiversity. Participants paid special attention to the ideas regarding the development of offerings in eco-tourism as well as for individual travellers. These are places that show the Dominican Republic from its most beautiful side. The goal would be to allow all-inclusive tourists to these places. (TS)

www.globalnature.org/en/themes---projects/nature-conservation/biodiversity-caribbean





Lion want to hunt, Maasai herders to protect their cattle. How to make that works?

Wildlife protection in Tanzania

Lions and Massai-shepherds

The lions are disappearing!

According to the World Conservation Union IUCN, there are only 20,000 lions left in Africa. This terrible situation of the Kings of the Savannah has finally reached the public spotlight after the famous lion Cecil was shot by a trophy hunter.

Dramatic situation

The number of lions in Africa decreased about 40 % during the past 20 years. The reduction of their habitat, the conflicts

with humans and the poaching of wild animals are threatening the lions. The illicit trafficking of lion bones for the Asian market is additionally jeopardising the lions. All in all, the economical, social and ecological damages must be assessed as disastrous.

The human-animal-conflict

Settlements and agricultural areas are reducing the hunting grounds of the lions, which can be up to 200 square kilometres big. Lions are hunting down cattle, if there is a lack of natural prey. In consequence, farmers are killing the lions to protect their herds and themselves. Over ten lions were killed in the project region in 2014.

Start of the pilot project

The GNF started a pilot project with the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF). The project is taking place in the area of the Manyara Ranch in the north of Tanzania. The two organizations are trying to in-

crease the milk and meat production of the cattle. This is substantially improving the income and nutrition situation of the Massai and makes the loss of single cattle less dramatic. Safe fencing is protecting the cattle. Special trained animal scouts, so-called "Game Scouts", are warning of lions hunting and are helping to reduce the poaching.

Game Scouts – secured future for human and animal!

The Game Scouts are helping to decrease the economic losses of the pastoralists. Thereby they are preventing the killing of the lions as a retaliatory action. Apart from training they need technical equipment like night vision devices, radio stations and motorcycles. Many endangered species such as lions, elephants and African wild dogs, but also the Massai themselves, benefit from this project. (MU)

www.globalnature.org/wildlife-tanzania

The lions in Africa want to live!

There are only 20,000 African lions left – and their number is dwindling. But there is hope: A GNF-project helps to protect humans and animals. Please assist us!

Donation Account:

GLS-Gemeinschaftsbank Bochum
IBAN: DE 53 4306 0967 8040 4160 00
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Drinking Cups for Drinking Water

The continuation of a success story

From 22nd August 2015 onwards, soccer fans from the German team "Hannover 96" were again able to donate the deposits of their cups to the project "Drinking Cups for Drinking Water". Probably breaking a record, at the first home match against Bayer Leverkusen, 2,200 cups were gathered. In subsequent games, a total of 2,000 additional cups were collected. Until November 2015, more than 12,000 Euro, which will be used for water projects in Africa, were accumulated. By re-introducing the returnable cups in the HDI Arena in Hanover, the continuation of the project "Drinking Cups for Drinking Water" became possible. Together with GNF and volunteers of the fan base IG Rote Kurve, the city of Hanover has been supporting this successful project to which visitors to the stadium have

contributed 150,000 Euro in donations. "We are overwhelmed by the positive response and the donations" said Anja Kutzke of the Working Group "Drinking Cups for Drinking Water" of the IG Rote Kurve.

The money is used for the construction of water purification plants and the maintenance of wells in Africa. In the first phase, five wells in the Ivory Coast, which were destroyed during the civil war, will be repaired, providing clean drinking water for 1,500 people. Local craftsmen will be trained in order to independently carry out maintenance and repairs when needed. The quality of the well water will be tested regularly. Long-term sustainable success will be secured through projects such as this. (SH)



The Bundesliga club Hannover 96 supports the action.



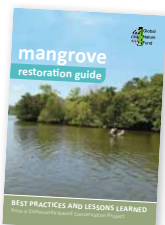
News

Publications and Online Information



GNF Annual Report 2014/2015 in English

Download from: www.globalnature.org/AnnualReport



Handbook „Mangrove Restoration Guide“

Best Practices and Lessons Learned from a Community-based Conservation Project

Download from: www.globalnature.org/mangroves

Awarded by Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation

The Fundación Global Nature and their project “Differentiated marketing based on the benefits for biodiversity” received the award in the category “Food that benefits people and the environment” on the 3rd of November 2015.



Mongolia project is fascinating European journalists

At the end of the Mongolia-project, in June 2015, a media-trip took place with journalists from five European countries. The press representatives were fascinated by the beauty of nature and by the devotion with which the partners are working to maintain the natural treasures in Mongolia. But also numerous problems were addressed during the ten-days trip.

Lack of garbage and sewage disposals, insufficient visitors guidance and poaching are some of the big challenges in this mostly untouched landscape in northern Mongolia. Many articles – including television broadcasts in Spain and Italian and Hungarian reportages and blogs – were published in the aftermath of this trip.



Events

January – March 2016

3 - 6 January 2016

Nature Conservation Days at Lake Constance

Radolfzell am Bodensee, Germany

27 January 2016, 3:00 pm

Living Lakes Webinar in English

Green Filters – Innovative & cost-efficient systems for water purification benefitting people and the environment

1 - 2 March 2016

Conference on the Project “Access & Benefit-Sharing in Germany”

Berlin, Deutschland

9 - 13 March 2016

ITB Berlin

Berlin, Deutschland

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