



# Annual Report



2016/2017



„It is not too little time that we have, but it is too much time that we do not use.“

**Lucius Annaeus Seneca, Roman philosopher, 4 B.C. – 65 A.D.**



## Imprint

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## Preface

Dear readers, dear friends, supporters, and donors,

Once upon a time ... there was a group of committed people focussed on the question of how do we strengthen nature and environmental conservation – especially for lakes and marshlands, which are among the most threatened ecosystems worldwide? They agreed that it would be necessary and important to found an organisation which would promote lake and water conservation and in doing so, support other organisations as well. This was the beginning of the Global Nature Fund and the international network, Living Lakes, in April 1998.

Coordinated by Prof. Gerhard Thielcke, NGOs located at four different lakes were enthusiastic about the idea: the Mono Lake Committee in California, the Lake Biwa Research Institute in Japan, the Wilderness Foundation at St. Lucia Lake in South Africa and the Lake Constance Foundation for the international region of Lake Constance.

Today, 20 years later, the Global Nature Fund and Living Lakes Network have evolved and their projects contribute significantly to preserving natural resources on our planet. The Living Lakes Network has expanded from the original four founding member lakes and now includes 107 lakes and wetlands which are represented by

more than 140 organisations and are given a voice within the network. In cooperation with the Global Nature Fund our partner organisations have implemented more than 100 projects, supported by many millions of Euros during this time. Networking is one of the key words of our time – but the quality and commitment of the Living Lakes partners is outstanding and this often makes the famous “difference”.

Nowadays, the Global Nature Fund is not only active and successful in the field of lake and wetland protection. The organisation has branched out into other areas and is now involved in international development through cooperation, protection of species and supporting business & biodiversity, which has become increasingly important over the past years. As coordinator of the European “Business and Biodiversity” campaign, the GNF was a pioneer in awakening companies and trade associations to the dramatic loss of biodiversity and motivating them to take action. Today, GNF covers a wide range of aspects, e.g. the Economic Valuation of Natural Capital or the education of wine-growers in implementing biodiversity action plans. Since autumn 2016, the GNF has coordinated an EU LIFE-Project to improve the biodiversity criteria in standards

For the sake of better legibility, gender-specific duplications were generally dispensed with.



and labels for the food industry. This is another very important task, because intensification of agricultural activities is one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss.

20 years of Global Nature Fund and Living Lakes – without committed and knowledgeable staff, proactive members of the Board of directors, an active Founders Committee and many private and public sponsors that believe in our organisation and work, this annual report about our successes would not be possible. We are grateful to everyone

who accompanied us during the last 20 years on this difficult but fascinating journey!

In most of the working areas, problems do not decrease. This means that we unfortunately, are not running out of work. After celebrating one year' achievements leads onwards to the task ahead ... we are tenacious, motivated and totally convinced that respecting and conserving nature is the only way to fulfil our responsibility towards future generations.



**Marion Hammerl**  
President



**Udo Gattenlöhner**  
Executive Director

Please visit our website to  
learn more about our wide  
range of projects:

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



## Living Lakes and Water

Exchanging concrete experiences is a central idea of the Living Lakes Network. Knowledge transfer and passing on successful methods and models between the partner organisations, not only leads to diverse and positive effects on the environment and nature but also to successfully implemented projects at the partner's lakes. A recent intergenerational workshop in South Africa, where experienced conservationists and newcomers could learn from each other, created new dimensions of exchange.



### Living Lakes

The GNF founded the Living Lakes Network in 1998 to protect lakes and wetlands and the habitats and water resources they provide. Today, the GNF is responsible for planning and implementing sustainable environmental protection projects together with over 100 partner organisations worldwide. Living Lakes offers its members a forum for dialogue and a platform to collaborate on project implementation, and the opportunity to exchange experiences, knowledge and environmental technologies. The network's goals are:

- › To protect biodiversity and conserve lakes, wetlands, and other aquatic ecosystems.
- › To renaturalise compromised and threatened wetlands and lake ecosystems.
- › To enhance the quality of life for the population of the area through participatory projects.
- › To encourage the sustainable use and development of these ecosystems in practices such as farming, fishing, tourism, housing developments, and energy/water usage.
- › To promote the use of applied sciences and technologies for the protection of these ecosystems.
- › To support educational programmes and collaborations with the local population and other relevant groups.

» The local people are important partners to implement sustainable measures for the protection of Lake Tonle Sap in Cambodia.

Since its foundation in 1998, the Living Lakes partnership has grown from four lakes to its cur-

rent number of 107 partner lakes. During project development, the GNF pays special attention to designing measures that are transferable and replicable. As a result, the projects are geographically flexible and can be implemented across a broad spectrum of regions and under various circumstances.

### Lake Tonle Sap – Threatened Lake of the Year 2016

The area of Lake Tonle Sap in Cambodia, the biggest freshwater lake in South East Asia. Its annual fluctuation is due to dry and rainy seasons, naturally changing its surface area between 2,500 and 16,000 square kilometres. The huge flooding area is responsible for the extraordinarily biodiverse





ecosystem with 150 species of fish, many aquatic birds and the unique fishing cat that live there.

Climate change affects the whole region of the Lower Mekong and leading to higher intensities of storms and longer periods of drought. Therefore, water level is steadily decreasing and valuable marshlands are drying up. The ecosystem is also damaged by cutting down the riparian forests and dam construction. Untreated sewage and the declining water level are contributing to the deterioration in the water quality and massive fish deaths occur. The basic food resources for animals and humans are thus disappearing. Industrial rice cultivation also contributes to the damage through nitrate and pesticide runoff into the lake.

To point out these problems and their causes, the GNF declared Lake Tonle Sap as “Threatened Year of the Lake 2016” on World Wetlands Day, February 2, 2016. Together with the Cambodian Living Lakes partner organisation Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT) we are searching for sustainable solutions to help humans and nature. To stop overfishing, aquaculture facilities are supported, which provide up to half a ton of fish every season to the people and regional markets. The topics of water pollution and waste disposal are also addressed. Environmental education projects are there to sensitise the fishing families. Alternative income sources such as eco tourism present new perspectives. 750 fishermen have been trained to

work as tourist guides on their boats. Regional marketing of vegetables and artisanal products produced by the local people is being supported. Tree nurseries help the locals to reforest the riparian forests. Further information is available at [www.globalnature.org/ThreatenedLake2016](http://www.globalnature.org/ThreatenedLake2016).

#### **Lake Constance – Living Lake of the Year 2016**

By electing Lake Constance as “Living Lake of the Year 2016”, the partner organisations of the Network Living Lakes Germany have provided an opportunity to point out the ecological importance of the lake as well as the successful international cooperation of governments, administrations and civil society that is needed to protect the lake. Nowadays, clear water and a huge species richness are notable characteristics of Lake Constance. The lake is an important drinking water source for about 4.5 million people. Its natural and cultural treasures attract millions of tourists every year and it is starting to be recognised as a model region for sustainability thanks to an increasing number of initiatives that promote environmentally friendly tourism, ecological agriculture and bioenergy.

Until the 1980s, Lake Constance was classified as a “heavily polluted” water body due to the permanent accumulation of nutrients. More than 3.5 billion Euros were invested into the construction of sewage treatment facilities around the lake and an international policy to increase water quality

➤ The Global Nature Fund and its Cambodian Living Lakes partner, the Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT), are promoting the conservation of Lake Tonle Sap and the safe future for people living along its shores.

» Lake Constance Foundation, our partner organisation at Lake Constance, has been supporting environmental-friendly agriculture, renewable energies, the Network “Blooming Lake Constance” (together with municipalities, farmers and companies) and the creation of blooming areas for wild bees and other insects for a long term.



was implemented successfully. Nevertheless, the “Swabian Sea” is facing new challenges: reducing land use in this densely inhabited region, providing environmentally friendly mobility and cross-border spatial planning are just some of the challenges that require innovative approaches. Impacts of climate change are also noticeable in and at the lake, as they affect water quality and the wide range of uses of the lake.

The international Lake Constance Foundation is a partner in the Network Living Lakes Germany and for a long time now has been contributing to the sustainable development of the Lake Constance region with project work and many initiatives.

» A proven concept: intergenerational learning at the “1st Living Lakes Sustainability Leadership Journey” within the South African iSimangaliso Wetland Park.

### Living Lakes – Generations learn from each other

“Sustainability from the Inside Out” was the motto of the first “Living Lakes Sustainability

Leadership Journey” in December 2016 in South Africa, during which 50 members of Living Lakes Network partner organisations came together. The participants had the chance to exchange knowledge and learn from each other during the week at Lake St. Lucia. Additionally, they were shown interesting examples of biodiversity projects during their excursions. The goal of this Living Lakes workshop was to prepare younger members of environmental organisations for leadership tasks and give them the opportunity to present and develop their ideas and concepts for sustainable development. Intergenerational learning formed an essential part of the event in the iSimangaliso protected area. Environmental organisations face a variety of challenges on a daily basis which arise in cooperations with society, governmental organisations and private enterprises. To be able to cope better with these demands, four workshops addressing very specific questions were held. People and the environment, social entrepreneurship, learning from nature, as well as leadership and learning were topics addressed during the workshops. The meeting in South Africa was organised by the Wildlands Conservation Trust and the Global Nature Fund and supported financially by the Wilo-Foundation.

### National and Multinational Networks

#### Living Lakes Canada

In 2016 Living Lakes Canada worked in partnership with WWF Canada to lead a national dialogue on the relevance of community based water monitoring and citizen science. Living Lakes



Canada used the Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN) protocol to train 30 additional citizen scientists, in order to assess and monitor the health of rivers and streams. CABIN is also used to analyse water quality changes caused by logging and pollution from the extraction of oil sands and natural gas. To protect the shoreline of Canada's lakes and reservoirs, our partners applied the Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping (SHIM) method. SHIM provides decision-makers, planners, developers, landowners and government agencies with the tools required to make decisions regarding sustainable land use near the shore that take into account cumulative impacts to fish and wildlife habits. In 2016, Living Lakes Canada launched the Columbia Basin Groundwater Monitoring Programme, after a two-year citizen science groundwater monitoring pilot project. As part of this programme, much needed data on groundwater levels in 12 priority aquifers across the Columbia Basin in British Columbia is collected. Moving forward, Living Lakes Canada will continue collaborating with other environmental organisations to ensure environmental priority at the upcoming Columbia River Treaty negotiations. The Columbia River Treaty, signed in 1964 between Canada and the US, governs the operation of large dams in the Columbia Basin for flood control and generation of hydroelectricity. On-going discussions with the First Nations will continue with the goal to reintroduce salmon to the Columbia River, which are currently prevented from spawning by dams in the US and Canada. Further information is available on the website [www.livinglakes.ca](http://www.livinglakes.ca).

### Network Living Lakes Germany

In the last year the Network Living Lakes Germany worked intensively on the national Fertilizer Ordinance, as a revision was due in Germany. The widely practiced disposal of slurry on agricultural areas is still one of the most important bur-

dens for surface and ground waters. We support the political work of our partners and as such a joint press release has been prepared. We also have been active in the protection of the "Living Lakes of the Years 2015 and 2016". At Lake Schwerin, dropping anchor and swimming was about to be permitted within the protected area. To prevent this, criticising statements were sent to the German Federal Waterways Authority, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the State Environmental Agency, the Ministry of Environment of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and the city government of Schwerin. These actions provided hard evidence: the approval was not given. Also in the future, nature conservation will continue to be a priority at Lake Schwerin. Absurd plans to set up whitefish cultivation in cages were made at Lake Constance. The Network Living Lakes Germany contributed to a national campaign against these plans and stated its disapproval – a lot of partner organisations feared that aquaculture in lakes could be allowed nationwide in Germany, if this attempt were successful. The national support of this regional campaign caused delegates and mayors to declare their opposition to whitefish breeding at Lake Constance. As a result, the topic is currently off the table. The Steinhuder Meer, Living Lake of the Year 2017, is a further success story: after years of negotiations, a necessary expansion of the natural protected area has been determined. Important moulting areas for lots of aquatic birds will thus be protected against impacts of water sports. The joint project "Lakes without limits" which caters for the visually impaired and blind was concluded last year. Four lakes (Steinhuder Meer, Lake Schwerin, Lusatian Lakeland, Lake Constance) are now endowed with special offers that are promoted by 3D-maps with information about the lake. Providing equal experiences to all is still a current topic within the network and applications for further projects are in process.



Through field trips and classroom sessions our partners of Living Lakes Canada educated more than 1,000 students about water use as part of the "Know Your Watershed programme". Learning programmes for students were offered in order to take action for clean water by protecting storm drains, removing invasive plants, cleaning urban streams and installing signage.



« The Island Kaninchenwerder located in Lake Schwerin will stay free of anchoring boats.

« The littoral zone of Lake Constance is currently in a good state. The impacts of an intensive whitefish breeding are not known.

## Members of the Living Lakes Network

### NORTH AMERICA

- 1 Columbia River Wetlands; **Canada**
- 2 Lake Winnipeg; **Canada**
- 3 Athabasca River; **Canada \***
- 4 Huron Lake; **Canada \***
- 5 Skeena River; **Canada \***
- 6 Mono Lake; **USA**
- 7 Lake Chapala; **Mexico**
- 8 Lake Atitlán; **Guatemala**
- 9 Lake Amatitlán; **Guatemala**

### SOUTH AMERICA

- 10 Laguna de Fúquene; **Colombia**
- 11 Lake Tota; **Colombia**
- 12 Lake Titicaca; **Peru, Bolivia**
- 13 Pantanal Wetlands; **Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay**
- 14 Lagunita Komplex; **Paraguay**
- 15 Laguna de Rocha; **Uruguay**
- 16 Mar Chiquita; **Argentina**
- 17 Río Gallegos; **Argentina**

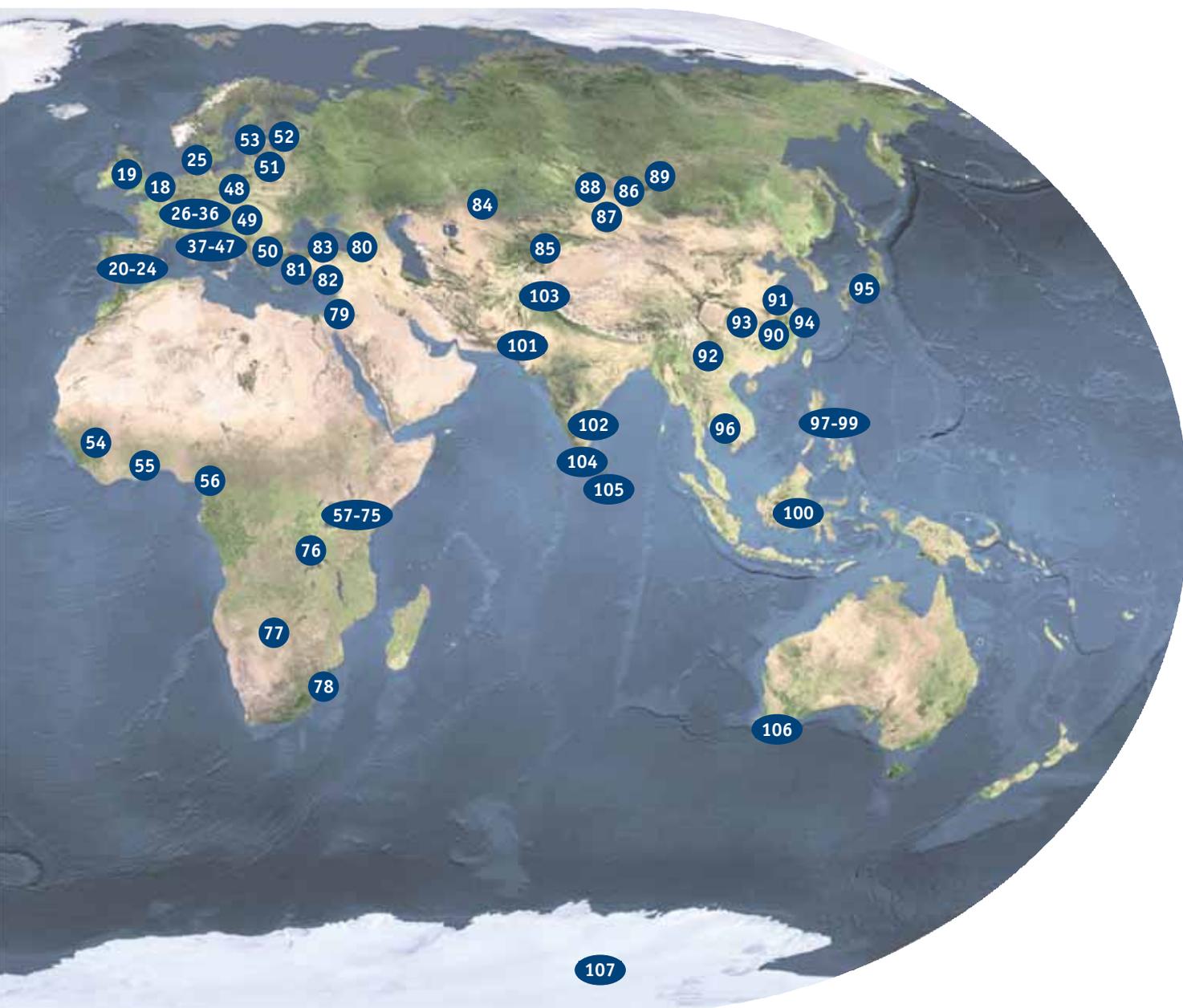
### EUROPE

- 18 Norfolk & Suffolk Broads; **Great Britain**
- 19 Lake District; **Great Britain**
- 20 La Nava; **Spain**
- 21 Lake Albufera; **Spain**
- 22 Delta de Llobregat; **Spain**
- 23 La Mancha Wetlands; **Spain**
- 24 Salobrar de Campos Wetlands; **Majorca, Spain**
- 25 Kolindsund Wetlands; **Denmark**
- 26 Lake Constance; **Germany, Switzerland, Austria**
- 27 Chiemsee; **Germany \***
- 28 Lake Dümmer; **Germany \***
- 29 Lake Plön; **Germany \***
- 30 Lusatian Lakeland; **Germany \***
- 31 Mindelsee; **Germany \***
- 32 Upper Swabian Lakes; **Germany \***
- 33 Lake of Plau; **Germany \***
- 34 Lake Schwerin; **Germany \***
- 35 Lake Stechlin; **Germany \***
- 36 Lake Steinhude; **Germany \***
- 37 Lake Trasimeno; **Italy**
- 38 Lake Albaner; **Italy \***
- 39 Lake Bolsena; **Italy \***
- 40 Lake Bracciano; **Italy \***
- 41 Colfiorito Wetland and Park; **Italy \***
- 42 Lake Garda; **Italy \***
- 43 Lago Maggiore; **Italy \***
- 44 Lake Nemi; **Italy \***
- 45 Lake Orta; **Italy \***
- 46 Lake Piediluco; **Italy \***
- 47 Lake Vico; **Italy \***
- 48 Milicz Ponds; **Poland**
- 49 Lake Balaton; **Hungary**
- 50 Nestos Lakes and Lagoons; **Greece**
- 51 Labanoras Regional Park; **Lithuania**
- 52 Lake Peipsi; **Estonia, Russia**
- 53 Lake Võrtsjärv; **Estonia**



### AFRIKA

- 54 Lake Sonfon; **Sierra Leone**
- 55 Lake Nokoué; **Benin**
- 56 Lake Ossa; **Cameroon**
- 57 Lake Victoria; **Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda**
- 58 Lake Bogoria; **Kenya \***
- 59 Lakes of Bugesera Region; **Burundi \***
- 60 Bujagali Falls; **Uganda \***
- 61 Lake Bunyonyi; **Uganda \***
- 62 Lake Chala; **Kenya \***
- 63 Lake Ihema; **Rwanda \***
- 64 Lake Jipe; **Kenya, Tanzania \***
- 65 Lake Kanyaboli; **Kenya \***
- 66 Lake Katwe; **Uganda \***
- 67 Lake Kivu; **Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda \***
- 68 Lake Kyoga; **Uganda \***
- 69 Mau Forest; **Kenya \***
- 70 Lake Nabugabo; **Uganda \***
- 71 Lake Naivasha; **Kenya \***
- 72 Lake Ol Bolossat; **Kenya \***
- 73 Lake Rwihinda; **Burundi \***
- 74 Shompole Wetland; **Kenya, Tanzania \***
- 75 Lake Wamala; **Uganda \***
- 76 Lake Tanganyika; **Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Zambia \***
- 77 Okavango Delta; **Botswana**
- 78 Lake St. Lucia; **South Africa**



## ASIA

- 79 Dead Sea; **Israel, Jordan, Palestine**
- 80 Lake Paliastomi; **Georgia**
- 81 Lake Uluabat; **Turkey**
- 82 Lake Eğirdir; **Turkey**
- 83 Lake Sapanca; **Turkey**
- 84 Lake Tengiz; **Kazakhstan**
- 85 Lake Issyk-Kul; **Kyrgyzstan**
- 86 Lake Hovsgol; **Mongolia**
- 87 Lakes Ulaan, Airag, Khyargas and Angir-Nuden Mondoohai; **Mongolia**
- 88 Lake Uvs; **Mongolia**
- 89 Lake Baikal; **Russia**
- 90 Lake Poyang; **China**
- 91 Lake Chao; **China \***
- 92 Lake Dian; **China \***
- 93 Lake Dongting; **China \***
- 94 Lake Tai; **China \***
- 95 Lake Biwa; **Japan**

- 96 Lake Tonle Sap; **Cambodia**
- 97 Laguna de Bay; **Philippines**
- 98 Lake Sampaloc; **Philippines**
- 99 Lake Taal; **Philippines**
- 100 Lake Jempang & Mahakam Wetlands; **Indonesia**
- 101 Deh Akro Wetlands; **Pakistan**
- 102 Lake Pulicat; **India**
- 103 Lake Wular; **India**
- 104 Lake Bolgoda; **Sri Lanka**
- 105 Lake Maduganga and Lake Madampe; **Sri Lanka**

## AUSTRALIA / OZEANIA

- 106 Wilson Inlet; **Australia**

## ANTARKTICA

- 107 Lake Vostok; **Antarctica**

\* National member of a national or multi national Living Lakes Network.

» It has proven successful to protect the drinking water pumps with fences, as implemented in the Ivory Coast.

» The GNF helped the initiative of the Tilman-Riemenschneider-Gymnasium in Osterode, Germany, to be funded in their support for the “fountain garden” project idea of their partner school Lycée Valdiodio NDiaye.

### Living Lakes Webinars

Since 2014 the GNF has been conducting regular online seminars, so-called webinars. These webinars are a cost-effective and time-saving way to create an efficient and specific transfer of knowledge between the partner organisations of the Living Lakes Network. They give all members of the network the opportunity to access information about a specific topic in a compact form. The topics in 2016 were:

- » Green filters: innovative & cost-efficient systems for water purification benefitting people and the environment
- » Sustainable Agriculture – how can we evaluate and enhance sustainability in farming?
- » Blue-Green Infrastructure
- » 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Living Lakes & Living Lakes Conference 2018

The presentations are available for download on: [www.globalnature.org/LivingLakesWebinars](http://www.globalnature.org/LivingLakesWebinars)



### Drinking Water for Africa

Access to safe drinking water can still not be taken for granted in many regions of the earth. Often people – mostly women and girls – have to walk for long distances to and back from rivers, streams and standing waters where water extraction for daily use is difficult. Without further treatment, this water often contains bacteria and pathogens that can lead to serious illnesses. This is where our drinking water projects in Africa come in. The campaign “Drinking cups for Drinking water” that was launched in 2009 in

» Opening ceremony of the drinking water system in the Ulamba Primary School in Kenya.



cooperation with the football club Hannover 96 and the TUI AG supports different projects. Help has been provided to more than 40,000 people in Kenya and the Ivory Coast, as they now have access to clean drinking water and fresh ground water supplies in close vicinity to their homes. In Kenya, our partner organisation FORWAC was responsible for repairing the ground water pump, the reservoir and the connecting conduits of the Ulamba Primary School. Since September 2016, the 364 pupils and 200 households of the village of Ulamba have been supplied with fresh water. The school’s garden, where local vegetables and fruits are cultivated, also benefits from the clean water. Our partner organisation ADER repaired another 15 pumps in rural areas of the Ivory Coast. The ground water pumps are secured by a fence, which has been proven to be useful with all previously repaired plants. Our partner organisation Habitat for Humanity successfully initiated another 6 pumps in February 2016, also in the Ivory Coast.

Recently, we were able to support an initiative at the Tilman-Riemenschneider-Gymnasium in Osterode that is involved in the project idea “fountain garden” at their partner school Lycée Valdiodio NDiaye in Kaolack, Senegal. “The pupils are supposed to experience that it is perfectly possible to grow fruits and vegetables on their own. Maybe, one day this will be a place of self-sufficiency and inspiration for others”, Elhadji Diouf, the head

of the project in Senegal, explains. Now it is up to the 3,800 pupils and 130 teachers in Kaolack. They are using the water from the new pump for the plant seedlings within the walled school garden and promoting a balanced diet. These activities were possible due to the football fans that donated their drinking cups at home matches in Hannover. Our thanks go to them, as well as the volunteers of the IG Rote Kurve – 96 Supporters Club. The Sika AG and the Foundation Ursula Merz also supported this project financially.

### New Technologies for Safe Drinking Water in Colombia

Sustainable development in rural areas of Colombia can be very challenging, as the poverty rate is high and in many regions, sewage and water supply systems coverage is below 70 percent. The existing infrastructure is often out of commission due to a lack of financial or technical capacities of the municipalities. Our Colombian partner organisation Fundación Humedales is developing successful solutions for simple, eco-friendly and cost-effective provision of safe and clean drinking water for rural communities. The joint project in El Charco, a rural and remote village in the municipality of San Miguel de Sema, Boyacá in Colombia, was carried out in collaboration with the Wilo-Foundation, the GNF and the private German water company Arisu. The people of El Charco were suffering from water-borne diseases due to an ineffective disinfection unit of the treatment system. The challenge was to find and provide a system with low operational costs that is easy to maintain and able to supply 100 percent safe drinking water. Not only access to drinking water but also water management is important. Fundación Humedales assisted the EL Charco community in the launch of a new aqueduct general assembly, a rural legal & participatory organisa-



tion. Additional assistance was given during the installation of electric power facilities assigned exclusively to the rural aqueduct and the approval of a water concession licence from the environmental and sanitary authorities. The project has been supported by the Foundation Ursula Merz.



### Ecosystem Services of Karst Regions – Driving Factor of Sustainable Local Development

Finding the right balance between protection and conservation of ecosystems and their sustainable use is one of the central challenges in the Danube area. Karst regions in this area are home to a unique diversity of plants and animals and these regions are all confronted with similar problems such as inadequate nature and forest cultivation, overexploitation and water pollution. The project EcoKarst with partners from nine countries aims to make a contribution to the protection and sustainable development of karst regions. To reach this goal, first of all, the relevant ecosystem services in seven nature and national parks are identified. Based on this identification, we can investigate the potential for small and medium sized enterprises to design business models which are economically profitable while still contributing to biodiversity conservation. In order to apply the results and recommendations from this project to various regions both within and outside of protected areas, a guideline to identify and develop “Pro-biodiversity business”-models is currently being created jointly together with project partners, protected areas and local interest groups. This project is funded by the EU Interreg Danube Transnational Programme (DTP).

➤ The EcoKarst project links activities for biodiversity conservation in seven karst regions with the contribution of project partners from nine countries.

« The inhabitants of the village El Charco actively supported our Colombian partners Fundación Humedales with the installation of the water purification system.

## Business and Biodiversity

The economy is dependent on biological diversity and ecosystem services. Often, this is not apparent to companies. A foresighted risk management scheme considers the availability of essential natural resources, which could be endangered e.g. due to the erosion of the cultivation areas or because insects to pollinate crops are missing. Within the programme of “Business and Biodiversity” we are helping to identify risks along the supply chain. One of our key areas is the food industry that is subject of a new EU LIFE project. We help businesses to implement effective biodiversity criteria in standards and labels and influence purchase requirements for suppliers.



### Biodiversity Criteria in Acquisition and Construction

Every year in Germany, public contractors acquire construction and service contracts that correspond to about 19 percent of the gross domestic product. The state, federal ministries and municipalities can serve as a good example and pave the way to sustainable purchasing, when making use of their market power to protect biodiversity. Moreover, they have various opportunities to operate their properties in a more biodiversity friendly way and ensure the protection of biological diversity during construction measures. We are developing concepts to include biodiversity criteria in the purchase requirements of public agencies and in general in the construction sector, together with the Oeko-Institut – Institute for Applied Ecology, the

Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW), and the Lake Constance Foundation. As a first step, we analysed biodiversity criteria in current environmental standards for 21 product groups. Hereby, we focused on the purchase of natural stones, where existing standards like XertifiX or Fair Stone have been analysed. Natural stones can be sources in Europe, but often they are also purchased from overseas, for example from China, India or Brazil. Extensive trade conditions placed on the development of the mining area, the mining itself and the post-mining treatment should help protect biodiversity in the countries of origin. Preliminary studies showed big deficits. Therefore we are preparing recommendations for more effective criteria within the sustainability standards and certificates as well as clear conditions for the allocation of public contracts.



» Public contractors can use their market power to protect biodiversity.



Delivery plans show how to implement these recommendations into daily work step by step. If biodiversity protection is going to play a major role in the purchase of materials and allocation of contracts in future, biological diversity is going to be more of a “Business Case”. Companies are encouraged to design their products and services in a biodiversity-friendly way and ultimately gain a concrete advantage over competitors who do not or only marginally take nature and resource conservation into account. This project is supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB).

### Innovative Financing Mechanism for Forest and Biodiversity Conservation

With a yearly gap of around \$200 billion to \$300 billion in global finances, public funds and private donations are vastly disproportionate for what is required to stop continuous deforestation and the loss of biodiversity. Much more importantly, private capital must be mobilised with innovative financial instruments. One possibility is offered by the so called “Impact Investments” that combine positive social and ecological impacts with corresponding financial returns. Supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety as well as the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, we investigated the concept of Impact Investments together with OroVerde – The Tropi-

cal Forest Foundation. By means of case studies we analysed current investments and benefits provided to the environment and society. Among them are investments with different approaches for biodiversity conservation, like supporting smallholder farmers in establishing agroforestry systems, the reforestation of degraded land with native tree species, and eco-tourism projects. When compared to traditional investments, the evaluated Impact Investments generally have a higher positive impact on the environment and local communities. The market is relatively new, so there are still opportunities to improve the process. For example, there should be more emphasis on the education of local communities and the positive, local impacts of the investments need better verification methods. Governmental contribution to such Impact Investments should

⤴ Many company premises have flat roofs that provide the possibility to cover the roof with greenery and create more space for biological diversity.

⤴ Our joint study with OroVerde provides an answer to the question of how Impact Investments generate a financial return and have positive effects on biodiversity and society at the same time.



» Networking meetings served as a possibility for interested companies to gain insight into the methods of Natural Capital Accounting and how to evaluate dependencies of and impacts on nature.

define minimum ecological and social requirements, for example more transparency about the return calculation, which is currently very unclear. It is also crucial to set up new, investable projects in developing countries and not only strengthening existing and established initiatives and companies. Based on our results, we provided recommendations for action to consumers, investors, financial institutes, and public policy makers that were published in May 2017.



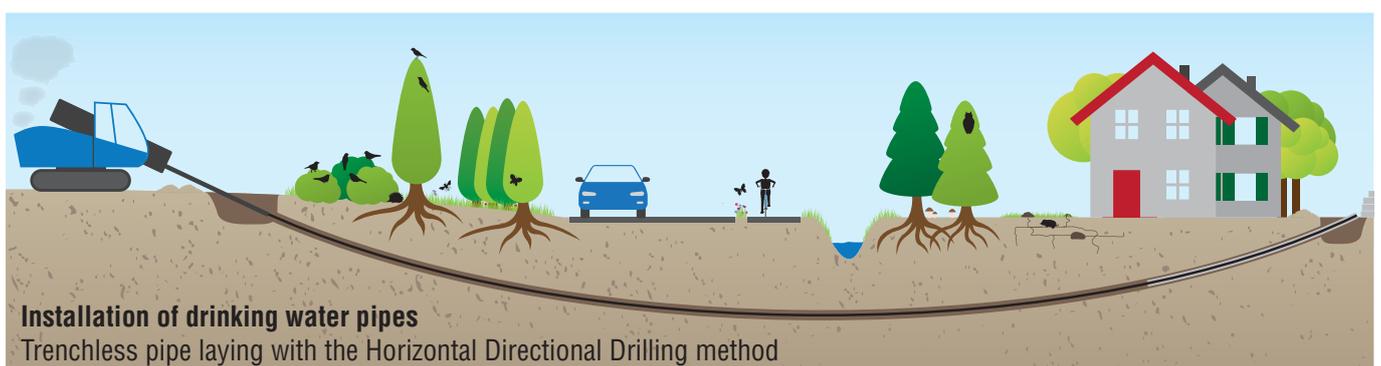
**Natural Capital Accounting Network**

Our planet produces readily available natural goods and services every year that have a value of more than \$70 trillion. Businesses use natural capital and ecosystem services in various ways, and hence are heavily dependent on biodiversity. Nevertheless, natural capital – as opposed to financial capital – has so far rarely been a part of business accounting and decision making. By placing a monetary value on natural capital, natural goods and services that so far have been taken for granted, are now talked about in a language that everyone – managers and employees – can understand. A river is now viewed as a source of renewable energy, a grassland as freshwater treatment “plant” and a forest offers a protective measure against soil erosion. The “Natural Capital Accounting Network” project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety and the German Federal Environment Agency and

aims to introduce businesses to the concept of Natural Capital Accounting in an easy way and illustrate the risks and opportunities linked with the use of natural resources. Meetings with interested companies and representatives from science and politics are organised to create a network. Additionally, pilot studies are being conducted.

» By applying Natural Capital Accounting, environmental impacts of the trenchless pipe installation were compared to the open construction. Methods and results of the pilot study were published in August 2017.

Together with the company TRACTO-TECHNIK, which produces machines for trenchless pipe installation, we compared the environmental impacts of trenchless pipe installation with the classical method of construction with open trenches. The trenchless pipe installation has lower environmental impacts due to less soil excavation, shorter construction time and less use of machines, which is assessed according to monetary value by the Natural Capital Accounting. This strengthens arguments to include en-





« Company premises are areas of work but the environment should be given a place too – for example as regenerating areas during the break of the employees.

environmental impacts more into the planning and allocation of construction contracts. The methods and results are described on the project website [www.naturalcapitalmarkets.org](http://www.naturalcapitalmarkets.org). Experiences gained from the pilot studies and examples of other international companies will be presented at an international conference during the second half of 2017.

### From Grey to Green – Industrial Parks in Transition

Industrial Parks do not necessarily need to look grey and dull, but rather can serve as an important element of green cities. Since July 2016, we have been working on the collaborative model project “Green instead of Grey – industrial parks in transition” to show how existing industrial parks can be rearranged sustainably. This project is part of the research programme “Sustainable transformation of urban areas”. Together with the Lake Constance Foundation we bring in experiences and knowledge from other projects, for example the award-winning project “Greening of Company Premises”. Scientific partners are the Technical University Darmstadt and University Osnabrück. Companies in the three German model cities Remscheid, Frankfurt and Marl were given initial advice on how to design their company premises in a more natural way. This is supported by the private sector and almost half of all the planned preliminary consultation sessions that

were scheduled until 2019 have already taken place. Furthermore we are not only going to disseminate the results, but also create dialogues between companies and provide sectoral and methodological input regarding the ecological functions of areas and the evaluation of these functions. This project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) and coordinated by the Wissenschaftsladen Bonn.

» At parking lots, a wall not only serves as privacy and noise protection, but also provides habitat for flora and fauna.





### Biodiversity in Standards and Labels for the Food Sector

Not only food industry and retail, but also the farmers as their most important suppliers, have a high impact on biological diversity. Unfortunately, biodiversity and ecosystem service protection are not considered as important as they should be within the food sector due to their major influencing power. Companies have direct and indirect effects on biological diversity, which makes it very challenging to minimize negative impacts throughout the whole supply chain, including all steps from the field to the supermarket. Labels and standards provide a useful orientation for the staff responsible for purchase and quality assurance in companies and also are a means of guiding consumers as they are an assurance that this food is produced in an environmentally friendly way. On behalf of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), Global Nature Fund and Lake Constance Foundation analysed 19 standards in the food sector. The results show that a change is needed as criteria regarding biological diversity are often insufficient, incorrect or only include a fraction of the reasons for the loss of biological diversity. "Biodiversity in Standards and Labels for the Food Sector" is a new project addressing standards and labels as well as companies within the EU. The aim is to strengthen the protection of biological diversity by 2020. This will be achieved through:

- › Integrating efficient criteria into existing standards and requirements for suppliers;
- › Training for certifiers and auditors as well as the responsible personnel in companies;
- › Developing and implementing a universal monitoring system for biodiversity impacts ;
- › Informing and disseminating results to educate parties within the food sector.

At the end of the project, a European-wide initiative "Biodiversity Performance in the Food Sector" will be established which will continue to work on this topic. Until now, 54 standards and labels of the food industry that are relevant for the European market have been analysed in regards to their biodiversity criteria and an open access baseline report ([www.food-biodiversity.eu](http://www.food-biodiversity.eu)) has been published. In all partner countries, pilot projects were initiated and methods were developed to help evaluate biological diversity on farms and display the improvements. This is an important goal of the project, because you can only influence what you understand! The initiative is widely supported in Germany and the European partner countries. The companies Kaufland, Symrise, UTZ, UEBT, Fairtrade, Nestlé Germany, QZ Baden-Württemberg and various other standards have agreed to cooperate. The project is funded by the LIFE Programme of the European Union, the German Federal Environmental Foundation and Fundación Biodiversi-

› Landscape elements and a diversified field cultivation support biological diversity.





dad. It has been declared a core initiative of the “10 YFP Sustainable Food System Programme”.

### Biodiversity in Environmental Management of Companies

The “Eco-Management and Audit Scheme” (EMAS) of the European Union is the most demanding system for sustainable environmental management. 1,250 organisations and companies in Germany with about 850,000 employees use EMAS to assess their impact on the environment and reduce it. Biodiversity is one of the key interest points of EMAS. Nonetheless, surveys show that it is still complicated for companies to consider biodiversity in their environmental management. One reason is that the binding indicator “Land

use” only covers parts of the impacts on biological diversity. The Lake Constance Foundation in cooperation with the Global Nature Fund created the guideline document “EMAS & Biodiversity: How to address biodiversity protection through environmental management systems”. This publication (available in English and German) explains to companies how they can assess the importance biodiversity has for themselves. The impacts and risks of the different sections of the company are analysed and goals, measures and indicators are suggested that would facilitate the measurement of activities and their impact. The guideline addresses strategy and management, company premises, purchase and supply chains, extraction of raw materials, product development, transport and logistics, marketing and communication. Seven examples show how companies from different sectors include biodiversity criteria in their environmental management in practice. In November 2016, we presented the guideline in Brussels together with the European Commission during a European workshop. Now, many web-pages of companies or websites related to business and economy provide it as a free download. The EU commission (DG Environment) helped in compiling the contents of the guidance document and supports us in disseminating it. The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety supported this publication financially.

« Diversified agriculture produces a variety of crops and protects biodiversity.



» The guidance „EMAS and Biodiversity” is written for companies with an environmental management system. Download: [www.business-biodiversity.eu/en/emas-guidance](http://www.business-biodiversity.eu/en/emas-guidance)



## Sustainable Development and Development Cooperation

Over the last few years, the importance of Sustainable Development and Development Cooperation within the GNF's work has increased significantly. GNF has implemented a lot of projects together with partner organisations from the Living Lakes Network. They focus on nature conservation and the improvement of living conditions for the local population, e.g. through the creation of alternative income sources and supporting sustainable development of agriculture, fishery, tourism, renewable energies and water management. Key requirements for successful projects are reliable and competent local organisations.



### Learning from Nature – Waste Water Treatment with Green Filters

In collaboration with the German company Kärcher, GNF launched the campaign "Clean Water for the World" in 2012 to support water and sewage treatment projects in developing countries. The main objective of the projects is the construction of natural sewage treatment systems, so called Green Filter Systems, in order to protect the environment and improve sanitation, hygiene and the living conditions of poorer population groups in rural communities all over the world. Over the years, the campaign has raised 443,535.80 € in donations, helping GNF and its Living Lakes partner organisations to build Green Filters in Colombia, Mexico, the Philippines and South Af-

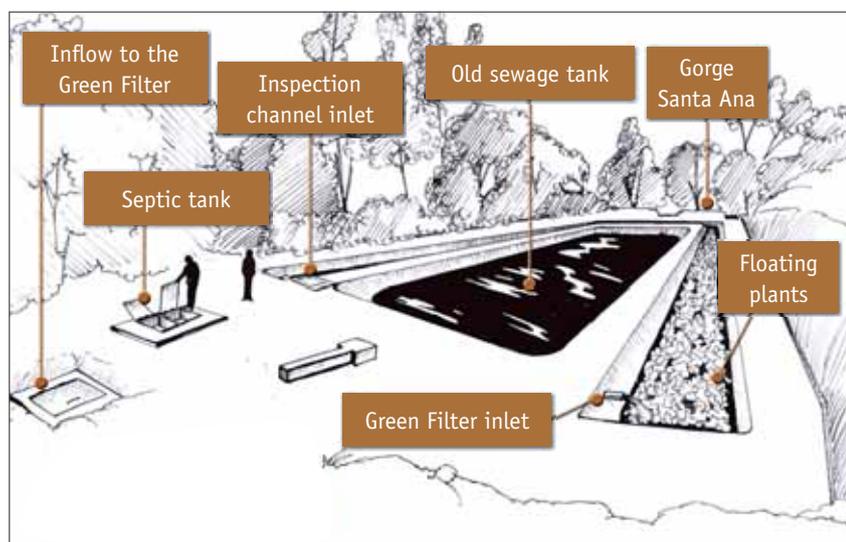
rica. New Green Filter projects are currently being implemented in Colombia, Nicaragua, Mexico and Paraguay.

### Green Filter Systems

Green Filters are an innovative, cost-efficient and easy to maintain alternative to conventional sewage treatment plants for rural communities. They can remove more than 95 percent of the organic load from the waste water, eliminate odours and can even create new habitats and raise environmental awareness among the communities. In the Green Filter, the water follows slowly through a number of channels, which contain floating plants. The roots and certain bacteria absorb the organic load as well as further nutrients from the

» Green Filters improve the water quality and thus the living conditions of people.

» In the Green Filters, local plants are used to create new habitats.





water and use them for their own growth. In this way, the water is cleaned up and can be returned to natural water bodies or used for irrigation.

#### People benefit from clean water

Rural areas in Colombia are severely affected by the lack of clean water for domestic uses. Over the last three years, Fundación Humedales installed four fully operational Green Filters in Colombia, making the Andean country a pioneer in Latin America for using this efficient low-cost solution and sharing the experiences with other countries. The results of the continuous water analyses prove the high efficiency of the filters in all relevant tested parameters. Occasionally, the carpet of floating plants is cut and deposited in drying beds, which are built at every site. The dried biomass and sludge are secondary products from the filters, which can be processed and used as fertiliser or as raw material for handicraft products as an alternative income for the communities. The Green Filters in San Miguel de la Sema, Susa (3,500 m<sup>2</sup>), Cuítiva (900 m<sup>2</sup>) and Fúquene (1,240 m<sup>2</sup>), treat more than 150,000 cubic meters of polluted water per year. More than 2,000 people of Andean rural communities benefit from these four fully operational Green Filters.

#### The successful Initiative will be continued

Based on the successful Colombian experiences and the knowledge gained, the GNF started a new project in September 2016, together with five local partners with wastewater treatment

as a subject. Two new Green Filters will be built in Mexico by Corazón de la Tierra and Fundación Cuenca Lerma-Lago Chapala. FUNDAR will construct one filter in a rural community in Nicaragua and three small scale filters will be implemented in Paraguay by Fundación Moisés Bertoni, benefiting students and teachers at three schools. The Fundación Humedales will build another filter in Colombia. The new project, which will continue until December 2018, is expected to be a key measure in the reinforcement of waste water treatment in rural communities of Latin and Central America.

In addition to the campaign with Kärcher GmbH & Co. KG, GNF's activities are supported by the Swiss company Sika and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

➤ Pollution and eutrophication are the biggest threats to many water bodies. Green filter systems can remove up to 95 percent of the pollutants from the water.

➤ The cost-efficient wastewater treatment concept successfully tested in Colombia is being transferred to other countries and continents.



**Mexico. Income generation by cleaning water**

Near Lake Zapotlán in Jalisco, the 5,000 habitants of the rural community San Andrés de Atitlán now have the ability to treat their sewage in a safe and efficient way, as well as grow flowers. The installation of a four channel Green Filter System by our partner organisation Corazón de la Tierra, offers more than 1,000 square meters for flowers to grow. The flowers are used to absorb the nutrients from the waste water and are afterwards sold by the community, generating a small but reliable income for the families. The Green Filters receive a daily average of 8,000 litres of sewage, removing over 50 tons of organic matter and more than one ton of nutrients per year.



**Philippines. Greening the urban development**

As part of the “Life Project for Youth (LP4Y)” in the municipality of Calauan, the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands implemented a Green Filter to treat the waste water of the model Eco-Village.



**South Africa. Biomimicry and research**

At Plankenbrug River, Wildlands Conservation Trust installed a pilot Green Filter unit to clean the polluted water from the river and serve as a basis for scientific research and test of biomimicry models from the Stellenbosch University.

**Philippines. Contributing to the health of the water at Lake Sampaloc**

At the shores of Lake Sampaloc, large amounts of sewage water contribute to the pollution of this highly endangered water body. Our partner organisation Friends of Seven Lakes Foundation, aware of this situation, has designed and implemented a “floating wetlands system” which is placed inside the lake and decreases the amount of nutrients within the water, serving as a habitat for endemic flora and fauna at the same time.



**Mate tea for the rainforest!**

Highly endangered species like the jaguar or the tapir occur together at only one single spot in the world: the Mbaracayu biosphere reserve, an Atlantic forest stretching from Paraguay to Argentina and Brazil. Destruction of nature progresses. Forest is cut down for soybean cultivation and intensive cattle breeding. Local farmers, many of which live below the poverty threshold, add to the destruction by deforestation for agricultural activities to sustain their families. To help people and nature, Fundación Moisés Bertoni and



« The farmers in the Mbaracayu biosphere reserve in Paraguay benefit from processing the fresh mate leaves and from marketing the mate tea themselves.

GNF have been working together for more than four years to promote sustainable cultivation of mate tea as a new source of income for farmers in the Mbaracayu region. Fundación Moisés Bertoni trains the local population to plant the native shadow-mate in the rainforest. In addition, a dryer was built so farmers could process the fresh mate leaves themselves and market their high-quality product together with a local cooperative. More than 5,000 kilos of fresh product from 26 farmers have already been processed and will be commercialised during 2017. After a successful pilot project between 2012 and 2015, the activities are now continuing with the support of the Environmental Action Germany and Rapunzel Naturkost with funds from the Hand in Hand-Fund.

### **A Successful Energy Transition – Impossible without Citizen Participation**

Considering the ongoing increase in energy demand and the necessity to tackle climate change, it is now more than ever critical to conserve energy and promote the use of renewables but also to change consumers', employers' and professionals' behaviour, all in all to make citizens aware of our impact on energy consumption, environment or even public policies. We all share common responsibilities when it comes to energy, climate change, or sustainable development. European citizens are truly at the heart of the transition towards a more sustainable Europe. To facilitate this transition the partners of the EU Erasmus+ Programme funded "Citizens for Energy Transition (C4ET)" project are developing thirty innovative

and pedagogical tools to build the bridge needed for citizens to become an active and dynamic part of the change. To ensure that the tools are well designed and that they fulfil their purpose, first versions of the tools have already been evaluated by the partners. The next phase will consist of testing the beta version among different stakeholders (experts, citizens, companies, managers and civil society).

### **Living in the Wild: Masai Shepherds in Northern Tanzania**

The northern part of Tanzania is a region with a lot of wildlife. There are many, well known protected areas such as Serengeti, Ngorongoro or Manyara, where huge herds of different animals live. They provide the scenery for spectacular, seasonal animal migrations. These animals follow traditional paths that do not respect the borders of protected areas. The land between different protected areas is often used intensively by farmers and cattle breeders, which leads to conflicts between wildlife and humans. Elephants especially, can cause immense crop losses that can threaten the economic existence of local farmers. The traditional Masai shepherd people also live very close to wildlife. This often causes conflicts with lions, because these do not distinguish between preying on wild animals and the animals that belong to the Masai's herds. The life of the Masai people depends heavily on cattle farming, so these losses threaten their existence and this often leads to them killing the lions. It also lowers the acceptance of local people for protected areas.



➤ More detailed information about the project "C4ET" can be found on the project website (six languages): [www.citizens4energytransition.org](http://www.citizens4energytransition.org)

» Wild animals like these elephants do not respect the borders of protected areas when they migrate. They often cause heavy crop losses, which pitches the local population against wild animals. Defusing such conflicts is the aim of our project.



» Relatively easy measures can protect the Masai's animals from lion attacks. Overnight, the cattle is put into a fenced area, called Boma. There, they are protected from lions during the night.

This situation led the GNF and the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) to initiate a project that aims to avoid human-wildlife-conflicts with easy measures and therefore support a peaceful co-existence between humans and animals. At the same time, the project helps to strengthen the economic situation of the Masai. The project base is located at the Manyara Ranch, which is a very biodiverse wildlife reserve and an important migratory corridor for elephants and other wildlife. The two neighbouring Masai communities of



Esilale and Oltukei are closely involved. A central aspect of the project is the livestock programme, which increases milk and meat production of the herds and therefore reduces the impact of losing a single animal for the Masai. Their income situation can thereby be sustainably improved. To mitigate human-wildlife conflicts, scouts in the anti-poaching unit work in close collaboration with the local communities in the project area and help prevent farmers' acts of revenge by separating pasture land from the lions' hunting grounds. The scouts regularly have meetings with the local communities to raise awareness for poaching issues – an approach which has led to the locals supporting anti-poaching activities in the area. The two-year project is funded by the Foundation Ursula Merz as well as the Environmental Action Germany and Rapunzel Naturkost with funds from the Hand in Hand-Fund. In April 2017, African Wildlife Foundation and GNF launched another project in southern Tanzania in direct neighbourhood to the Selous Game Reserve. It aims to help the 2,000 local farmers shift towards sustainable agriculture to mitigate the human impact on surrounding reserves and protected areas. This project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Foundation Ursula Merz.



### Mangrove Restoration in Asia

For more than 10 years now, the GNF has been involved in protecting mangroves. Mangrove forests form a unique ecosystem in the transition zone between land and sea. With their enormous productivity and rich fish and crustacean stocks they are an important source of livelihood for the rural and often poor local population. Moreover, they support an enormous biodiversity, have an especially high potential as a carbon sink and protect the inhabitants from tropical storms and floods. At the same time, the decline of mangrove forests worldwide is alarming. In the last 35 years, about 3.6 million hectares of mangrove forests have been destroyed. Together with our partner organisations in Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cambodia and India we are working on projects that aim to protect, reforest and restore these fascinating ecosystems. A project with the title "Mangrove protection in Asia" was carried out with the support of Daimler AG in four Asian countries and was finished successfully by the end of 2016. Within the project, more than 40,000 mangrove seedlings were planted in an area of 23 hectares. All in all, our efforts helped more than 350 families to increase their income and livelihood situation, for example through the creation of vegetable gardens. More than 7,000 children and adults participated in environmental education measures. At the beginning of 2017, the GNF started a big project together with four partner organisations in India and Sri Lanka to continue its commit-

ment to mangrove protection. The project is set to run until the end of 2019 and aims to restore 150 hectares of degraded mangrove forests and improve the livelihood of 1,400 families in rural areas. The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and is additionally supported by the Daimler AG and the Foundation Ursula Merz.



⤴ The rich fish and shrimp stocks of mangrove ecosystems are the main source of subsistence for the mostly poor population. Maintaining these ecosystems is our goal, for example in the Sundarbans, the biggest mangrove forest on earth, located in the border region between India and Bangladesh.

« The local population is not only closely involved in the restoration of the mangrove forests, but also benefits from the measures. This is the only way to ensure acceptance and long-term positive impact of the measures.

## Nature Conservation

“Silent spring” by Rachel Carlson was published in 1962 and describes an ominous vision about the effects of agro-chemistry and their impacts on biological diversity. More than 50 years later the author’s fears have become reality: almost all the bird species in agrarian landscapes are declining in numbers and a lot of species that used to be very common are now endangered. Even worse is that issues, like deforestation, which previously only concerned North America and Europe are now spread across the globe. Nature conservation on 100 percent of all land was the demand made by GNF founder Gerhard Thielke 30 years ago. It has been GNF’s legacy and strategy since and is now more important than ever.



### Working field Living Landscapes

Nowadays, there are only half as many skylarks in Germany compared to the numbers at the beginning of the 1980s. The number of partridges even declined by 95 percent. Now there are only about 50,000 breeding couples. Agrarian policy and the food industry have pushed forward agricultural intensification for decades, which heavily affected the diversity of cultural landscapes. A wheat field is often as diverse as the parking area of a discounter. Research has shed light on the needs of skylarks: diverse crop rotations, broad verges and the extensification of grasslands – and as little agrochemicals as possible. The EU Agri-environmental measures could not turn around this trend. It is not yet possible to make such statements for the greening measures that are obligatory since 2015. Five years ago, the GNF started working in the field of “Living Landscapes”. It supports biodiversity in cultural landscapes through the integration of traditional approaches into landscape protection.

### Protection of cultural landscapes – new methods to address old issues

First of all, the good news is that experts at GNF usually find a lot of people interested in learning and getting support. For the past five years, within the framework of different projects, experts of GNF have been visiting farmers and their fields, advising processing companies in the food industry and retail, agrarian advisors, certifiers and food standards. How to rescue biological diversity

is always the topic of these visits. Some people regret that skylarks and partridges are becoming scarcer, but do not consider the connection to agrarian and personal activities. The challenge for GNF is to find adequate tools to implement environmental measures for every stakeholder, from farmers to big companies. A large enterprise normally has a sustainability department with trained people. Farmers may, if at all, find time to think about “biodiversity action plans” on a quiet winter’s day. Nonetheless, they have high requirements: measures should be concrete and effective with a significant result that can be measured after short time – these are parameters for people that are used to fast decisions and field work. Working with large enterprises on the other hand is more delicate and requires more communication with all involved people, longer test phases with pilot farms and complex committee decisions. The impact is very high: if an enterprise adapts their purchase requirements, supplying companies often have to update up to thousands of farms to the new requirements, which has a big influence on biodiversity.

### GNF project work along the value creation chain

The bad news is that everything remains complicated due to the complex systems. Prices and produced amounts are crucial for the farmer’s calculations. Processing companies have to fulfil the high hygienic and safety criteria of the food industry and provide perfect quality. Trade and



retail companies have to defend their position on the market and fulfil the return demands of the investors. Even big stakeholders only have limited market power and therefore limited influence on processors and farmers. They, on the other hand, do not rely on only one customer. One argument is always presented to experts at the GNF: "We are doing it, because the customers and the public opinion want it like that." So in the end, it is often the customers that select cheap and unsustainable products and accept that this is destroying biological diversity. The customers in discounters and supermarkets and the decisions they make therefore contribute to the type of production, i.e. what companies demand from their suppliers, how farmers produce and whether the production fields are located in China, North Hesse or Markgräfler Land. Therefore, the Global Nature Fund is working on projects along the

whole supply and value creation chain starting with the farmer and ending with the customer.

#### **GNF projects in this working field**

- › Protection of Living Cultural Landscapes on the Iberian Peninsula (donor projects)
- › European Partnership for Biodiversity Protection in Viticulture (EU ERASMUS+)
- › Sustainable Purchase of Herbs and Vegetables (Fundación Global Nature, Spain)
- › Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Fair Involvement of Producers (Symrise)
- › Business and Biodiversity in Central America and Dominican Republic; the contribution of the tourism sector to restoration and protection of coastal and marine biodiversity in the Caribbean (EU EuropeAid)
- › Biodiversity in Standards and Labels for the Food Industry (EU Life+)

⚡ A picture with rareness value: Corn poppy and the symbolic cornflower disappeared from German fields.

⚡ Moving forward to more biodiversity together with producers, processors and customers.





➤ The brochure “Ambassador of Living Lakes – Biodiversity Stewardship Projects of the Global Nature Fund” presents eleven projects with which companies can demonstrate their responsibility for biodiversity.

## Species and biodiversity protection at Living Lakes

### Agenda Species Conservation: Endangered Species at Living Lakes

Species and nature conservation have always been a part of GNF's projects. To wrap this up strategically after the 14<sup>th</sup> Living Lakes Conference that took place in Nanchang in the year 2014, we analysed the current situation of endangered species at our partner lakes worldwide. The alarming results show that especially in developing countries more and more animal and plant species are affected and pushed to the border of extinction. This is due to overexploitation by fisheries, waste water from industry and households that are directed into the water bodies, changes in land use in the drainage basin, but also direct hunting or missing knowledge. Every year for example, a few Indonesian Irrawaddy dolphins die in fishing nets, even though experts estimate only about 70 living individuals remain of this species. There is almost no knowledge about West African Manatees, except that their number is declining. Even though there are strict laws, dozens of poached animals can be found on the markets. The situation is also critical in developed countries. In Canada, there is no consequent management plan for the Columbia River Wetlands, one of the most important marshlands of Western Canada. In Europe, a lot of bird species have been pushed to the edge of extinction, despite the implementation of the EU-Birds Directive 40

years ago. For twelve specific outstanding projects we collected reliable information from our partners and combined it with our own research to set up the “Agenda Species Protection”. The results are presented in a brochure. Now we are looking for financial support to implement the projects that were conceptualised in the framework of the Agenda Species Conservation initiative, which has been supported by the Foundation Ursula Merz.

### Biodiversity in the Caribbean

The biological diversity on the Caribbean islands and their valuable coral reefs is paying a high price for the touristic development of the region. Some examples:

- ancient coastal forests are removed and the land is used to construct buildings, the ecosystem and habitat is lost
- artificial beaches are created or natural ones changed, so that erosion is increasing
- parties and races with “dune-buggies” are disrupting breeding areas for birds and turtles
- yachts, jet-skis and other fast water sport vehicles are interfering with dolphin and manatee habitats
- irresponsible scuba diving and too much snorkelling is harming coral reefs
- high fish demand at tourist hotspots leads to overfishing of single species and therefore dramatic changes in the food chain

» Brown Noddies are breeding on the Cayos Siete Hermanos far away from the coast of Haiti, surrounded by waste.





- › regional agriculture is responsible for nutrient and pesticide runoffs to surface water bodies and river deltas
- › waste waters are introduced into the sea without being cleaned and lead to disturbed nutrient cycles

Commissioned by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, we have been working on these topics since 2015. In the touristic areas of the Dominican Republic as well as in the newly developing coastal regions in Honduras we carried out workshops and seminars to sensitise tourist experts, educate people working in the field and develop methods for practical implementation. Since the beginning of the year 2017 we can expand our efforts by working together with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and competent regional partners as part of an EU-funded project. The measures will be expanded

and agricultural topics included, concrete projects for nature conservation will be implemented and tourists will be informed.

### Biodiversity at Camping sites

Lake Schwerin, Plauer Lake and Lake Constance all have a high recreational value for camping tourists and nature lovers. The protection of biological diversity can be an outstanding feature of an environmentally friendly campsite. Campsites are often located next to areas with high species richness. This results in a special responsibility for the operator. In a joint project with Ecocamping e.V., funded by German Federal Foundation for Environment, camping operators have been examined using a special biodiversity check. As a result, they received concrete ideas and recommendations for measures to protect biodiversity. Using the experiences from previously implemented measures and with consultation from experts, a model for a biodiversity action plan was created which is available to all campsites.

« Due to overfishing, even fish of this size are now seldomly seen in the Caribbean coral reefs.



« Every shed provides space for an insect hotel.

» Graded mowing concept: this one can grow until the main season.





» The project supports the South African ZAP Wing, a unit fighting poaching from the air. Chef pilot Etienne Gerber flies above the project region several times a week to control the animal stock and discover illegal activities.

### Nature and species protection in Africa: Our battle against poaching of elephants and rhinos and the unethical business with breeding lions.

Illegal ivory trading and the connected poaching of elephants and rhinos in Africa have increased to significantly threatening levels over the last years. In 2016, more than 1,000 rhinos and about 20,000 elephants were killed by poachers to satisfy the demand for status symbols made of ivory and the superstitious beliefs in the healing powers of rhino horn powder. Not only increasing purchasing power and exorbitant profit margins on the black markets of China and Vietnam lead to poaching. Other factors hampering an efficient battle against poaching are poverty, corruption and a lack of trained staff at the local offices in the origin countries of the poached animals. This also counteracts attempts to foster a sustainable development in the focus countries of poaching and is therefore especially harmful.

### Successful projects against poaching in Africa

For many years, the GNF and its different African partner organisations have been working against the poaching of elephants and rhinos. The country borders in eastern and southern Africa are often difficult to control, therefore they became focus regions for poachers. To deal with that problem, we initiated a project in 2016 to protect elephants and rhinos in the border region of Kenya and Tanzania as well as between Mozambique and South Africa. Together with our local partner organisation African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) we are developing measures to protect elephants in the Kilimanjaro region between Kenya and Tanzania. We support the efforts of so called Community Scouts (local gamekeepers) which deter poachers by community work and regular patrols and therefore protect the elephants. Their

tasks also include stopping the elephants from ruining maize fields of smallholder farmers during migration. This decreases conflicts between the local population and elephants and strengthens the acceptance of anti-poaching measures and protective measures within the communities.

South Africa is the country with the largest rhino population in Africa. These animals mostly live in the province of KwaZulu Natal and in the Kruger National Park bordering Mozambique. The hardly controllable border between the two countries is a base for rhino horn smuggling from South Africa to Asia. In close cooperation with the Wildlands Conservation Trust (WCT), the GNF is developing measures to fight poaching in this region. This includes equipping the rhinos with GPS collars to improve monitoring as well as meetings and trainings for rangers and park managers to strengthen the cross-border exchange between South Africa and Mozambique. An aerial unit with a small airplane for monitoring and keeping track of the animals from the sky is also part of the project.

The Conference of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) took place in Johannesburg from 24<sup>th</sup> September to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016. Before the conference started, German Federal Minister for the Environment, Mrs. Barbara Hendricks, visited the project regions of the GNF in Kenya and South Africa. Her on-site visit showed the special commitment of the German government to fight poaching and illegal ivory and rhino trading. Both projects are funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB).

» All over Africa, the number of elephants has decreased significantly thanks to poaching. In the year 2016 for example, 20,000 elephants were poached for their valuable ivory tusks.

» At the end of 2016, the German Federal Minister for the Environment Barbara Hendricks visited the GNF project area near the Amboseli National Park in Kenya.



### Successful campaign „Lions for Sale“

As of 2016, the GNF is carrying out the campaign “Lions for Sale” to act against the unethical business of lion breeding farms in South Africa. Nowadays, twice as many lions live in such farms as in the wild. Motivated volunteers are attracted by the chance to raise supposedly orphaned lion babies. They are told that the lions will be released into freedom when they are grown up. Our Living Lakes partner Wildlands Conservation Trust (WTC) showed that reality is different. Adolescent lions are trained for “Lion walks” with tourists and after a short life in captivity, they are used for trophy hunting. Their bones are then used to make bone flour for the traditional Chinese medicine. We want to prevent unsuspecting tourists and volunteers from supporting this business. Therefore, we contacted touristic and biological faculties at more than 100 different universities all over Germany and provided them with information material. Many universities showed the movie “Blood Lions™”, which displays the cruel situation at breeding farms. We also attended a lot of fairs and released publications.

This is not enough to stop the demand from Germany and Europe. Therefore we intensively included the tourism sector. Together with the WTC, we contacted a lot of tourist operators

offering journeys to Africa and informed them about the happenings at lion breeding farms, so that they would be encouraged to check if their journey programmes include those components. More than 80 travel agencies voluntarily signed a document declaring their commitment to exclude offers related to wild animals. Some large travel agencies told us that they do not support these offers in general. A big success was the policy change of the world’s biggest travelling platform “Trip Advisor”. Since the beginning of 2017, offers that include direct contact with caught or endangered wild animals cannot be rated and promoted.

This success motivates us to continue fighting the lion breeding business. The reactions of many people show that they did not know about this hidden dark side of volunteering and tourism in Africa. As a next step we are going to intensify the contact to commercial volunteering operators, so that these offers also disappear from catalogues and webpages. The more young people know about the practices, the less volunteers will be tricked into working on lion breeding farms. Therefore the project will be continued intensively and our educational offer will be expanded to cater for schools. This campaign is supported by the Foundation Ursula Merz.



« On the lion farms, the lion cubs, who are only a few days old, are separated from their mother after birth and then raised by volunteers for a lot of money as supposedly “orphaned lion babies”.

## Environmental Education and Public Relations

Environmental education and public relations play a central role in GNF projects. Next to classic print media, electronic media is becoming more and more important for target oriented and cross-generational communication work aiming to preserve nature for future generations.



All publications are accessible on [www.globalnature.org/publications](http://www.globalnature.org/publications).

### Media Work

In 2016, we released 23 multilingual press releases. At the beginning of each year, we release information about the "Threatened Lake of the Year" and the "Living Lake of the Year" Our projects, campaigns, awards, and the availability of publications offer interesting themes that are welcomed with curiosity among the public.

### Publications

All publications are available for download on the GNF-website under the "Publications" section ([www.globalnature.org/publications](http://www.globalnature.org/publications)). The GNF-Newsletter also appears regularly in German and English and discusses current themes, projects and activities. All editions can be downloaded on our website ([www.globalnature.org/Newsletter](http://www.globalnature.org/Newsletter)) or you can subscribe to receive them via email. The DUHwelt magazine that the Environmental Action Germany publishes four times a year together with the Global Nature Fund provides

interesting information about current topics in German speaking regions.

### Internet

In 2016, more than 630,000 people from all over the world visited our webpage ([www.globalnature.org](http://www.globalnature.org)). Here we provide information in German and English about all our projects, campaigns, and exhibitions as well as detailed information about our partners and our global Living Lakes Network. We made it possible to scale the text size and increase the colour contrast, so our website and almost all sub-pages are even more user-friendly and barrier-free now. For specific, extensive projects we have set up separate websites together with our project partners. The [www.business-biodiversity.eu](http://www.business-biodiversity.eu) website is still just as popular as it was when it first came online in 2010 as part of the European Business and Biodiversity Campaign. It offers detailed information on exhibitions and the project background. News is now also available

» The GNF reports regularly on its project work, both in the German Magazine DUHwelt and in the bilingual GNF-Newsletter.



on Twitter (Username: @probiobiodiversity). The website has developed into a reliable source of information on Business and Biodiversity related issues and is visited and used by around 60,000 users every month.

The English website [www.we-hub.org](http://www.we-hub.org) for our Water-Energy Hubs for Kenya project provides information about the project partners, background stories, locations, and also videos that show phases of construction at the various Hub stations. The German website [www.kmu-nachhaltigkeitscheck.de](http://www.kmu-nachhaltigkeitscheck.de) was established in 2012 as part of the SME Sustainability Check project that the GNF operates together with the adelphi research GmbH and the Institute for Applied Material Flow Management in Trier. The [www.food-biodiversity.eu](http://www.food-biodiversity.eu) website provides information on the background of the "Biodiversity in Standards and Quality for the Food Industry" project. Specific information about the "Online Information Platform for Biodiversity Markets" projects is available on the website [www.naturalcapitalmarkets.org](http://www.naturalcapitalmarkets.org). On the website for the "Greening of Company Premises" project, [www.naturnahefirmengelaende.de](http://www.naturnahefirmengelaende.de), you can find guidelines, suggestions, and real-world examples for implementing biodiversity friendly measures on your company premises.

The activity updates from the "Young Journalists for Nature" project are available on Twitter and Facebook at: [www.twitter.com/Yojo\\_Magazin](https://www.twitter.com/Yojo_Magazin) and [www.facebook.com/yojomagazin.de](https://www.facebook.com/yojomagazin.de). The young journalists also report about the origins of their articles and interviews on their blog: [www.yojo-magazin.de](http://www.yojo-magazin.de). The English website [www.citizens4energytransition.org](http://www.citizens4energytransition.org) provides information about activities of the "Citizens for Energy Transition" project. Handicap accessible offers developed in the "Nature Experiences for Everyone" project are available at: [www.natur-sinn.org](http://www.natur-sinn.org). The GNF regularly provides information on their "Lions for Sale – Bred for the Bullet" campaign on: [www.facebook.com/lionsforsale.de](https://www.facebook.com/lionsforsale.de). Current and relevant topics can also be found on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/globalnature.org](https://www.facebook.com/globalnature.org).

### Awards

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2016, the Minister of Baden-Württemberg Winfried Kretschmann handed over the "UN Decade Biodiversity Project" award to the GNF during the Nature Conservation Days in Radolfzell. The award was addressed to the project "Network Living Lakes Germany".

### Awards for our Partners

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2016, ECOVIN received the Rhinehessen Sustainability Prize for their Biodiversity-Check, which was developed in partnership with the GNF and the Lake Constance Foundation. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of February of the same year, they were also awarded as a "UN Decade Biodiversity Project" for their commitment and work towards more biodiversity in ecological vineyards, also in cooperation with the GNF and the Lake Constance Foundation.

Our Philippine Living Lakes partner organisation, the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands, received the "Wetland Conservation Advocacy Award" in March 2016 in recognition of their campaign to conserve and sensibly use wetlands.

Heather Leschied – project manager for Wildsight's Living Lakes Canada water team – was awarded with the Conservation Leadership Award on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015, for her commitment to lake protection in the Canadian Kootenay region.

### Memberships

Over the years, Global Nature Fund has extended its number of memberships in various associations. Whereas some memberships started with projects, others have more strategic reasons. We are currently a member of the following organisations:

- Association of German Foundations
- Association of German Press Officers
- BION – Biodiversity Network Bonn
- Climate-Alliance Germany
- ECOCAMPING e.V.
- ECOTRANS e.V. – European Network for Sustainable Tourism Development
- EU-Russia Civil Society Forum
- Fair Rubber Association
- Freshwater Action Network
- Future Association
- German Fundraising Association
- German League for Nature, Animal and Environment Protection – DNR
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Linking Tourism & Conservation (LT&C)
- Natural Capital Coalition
- Permaculture Advisory Board of the company real,-
- TransFair e.V. (Fairtrade Germany)



## About Us

The Global Nature Fund (GNF) is an international foundation for the protection of environment and nature, founded in 1998. It is a non-governmental organisation that only pursues non-profit goals in support of environmental protection, nature conservation, landscape management, species protection, and environmental education. International cooperation plays a key role in these projects. The main office is located in Radolfzell, Germany, by Lake Constance. Additional offices are located in Bonn and Berlin.

The foundation's aims are realised through the:

- › Development of projects that promote sustainable economic activities as well as climate protection and wildlife conservation.
- › Initiation and implementation of nature and environmental protection projects for the conservation of the diverse fauna and natural habitats.
- › Environmental education through publications and events promoting the protection of nature and environment.
- › Promotion of international conventions on the protection of environment, nature, species, climate, and water.
- › Promotion of international dialogue between environmental organisations, industries, administrations, politicians, and scientists.
- › Support for sustainable and fair development around the world as long as these are in conjunction with nature and environmental protection issues.

GNF is controlled regularly by the German tax authority. As the foundation is recognised as charitable, donations and additional endowment contributions can be set off against tax liability. Besides, if GNF is appointed as the statutory heir of an asset, the foundation is exempted from paying inheritance tax. The foundation's assets are currently 417,638.04 Euro. According to the foundation's charter, these assets have to be covered by GNF's stocks and can be supported with donations starting at 20,000 Euro.

### Honorary Positions

According to § 4 of the charter, the honorary positions of the foundation are the Board of Directors and the Founders Committee. The **Founders Committee** meets annually, represents the interests of the founders, oversees the work of the Board of Directors, and decides on its discharge. At present the committee is comprised of three seats: Michael Bauer (Chairman), Jürgen Resch (Vice Chairman), and Prof. Dr. Thomas Feske. In addition to the active board members, there are also passive stakeholders and advisors.

### Structure

#### Supervision and voluntary Inspections

The Global Nature Fund was approved by the Senate Office for Justice in Berlin as a foundation on April 29, 1998, pursuant to § 80 of the Berlin legal code in conjunction with § 2 Clause 1 of the Berlin Law on Foundations. The supervisory authority has to review and approve potential changes to the foundation's charter. Once a year, an audit report about the annual financial statement is submitted to both the foundation authorities, and voluntarily submitted to a certified auditing firm for reviewing purposes. GNF received a full attestation in both cases. Furthermore,

The **Board of Directors** leads and manages the foundation in accordance with its statutes. Business operations are conducted by a full-time Executive Director. The committee meets twice a year, and is comprised of a maximum of seven seats: Marion Hammerl (President), Prof. Dr. Manfred Niekisch (Vice President), Jörg Dürr-Pucher, Dr. Andrew Venter and Sebastian Winkler. Since April 2016 Sascha Müller-Kraenner is the active successor of Prof. Dr. Harald Kächele, who resigned from the GNF Board on his own request. In April 2017 Kat Hartwig joined as a new member of the GNF Board of Directors.

### Travelling to Protect the

#### Environment

The GNF documents all flights by its employees and board members and calculates the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. On the basis of the calculations by the climate organisation myclimate, the GNF donates the appropriate amount to the organisation for climate change projects and promoting renewable energy.



Our GNF team in Radolfzell (left), in Bonn (bottom left) and in Berlin (bottom right).

GNF's **Scientific Advisory Board** consists of several international experts who are consulted for technical expertise where necessary. The following individuals are present members of the board on a voluntary basis: Roger de Freitas, Great Britain; Dr. Hendrik Hoeck, Switzerland; Prof. Dr. Masahisa Nakamura, Japan; John Pinder, Great Britain; Dr. Antonio Gómez Reyna, Mexico; Dr. Tillmann Stottele, Germany and Prof. Dr. Michael Succow, Germany.



**Staff members**

On December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016, the GNF employed 17 staff members, including interns and temporary jobs. Nine staff members worked in the main

office Radolfzell, seven in Bonn, and one in our office in Berlin.

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## Finances and Administration

As a small environmental association it is not easy to finance projects without huge membership bases. We have to find the funding for each project separately. Even when grant applications are approved, the own contribution – that is necessary for a public project funding – is still missing. This rest can make the difference between a balanced and a deficit budget. Therefore, additional fundings like private donations or supporting money from companies are crucial for balanced and successful project and budget planning.

### Fundraising

In the last few years it has been more difficult to get fundings in comparison with the first years of the environmental movement in Germany. At that time, money was easily obtained, because especially in the 80s environmental protection was welcomed by the society and politicians. Today, public and private money is scarcer or distributed differently, because there are not only unsolved environmental and climate problems, but also other European and international challenges. The “Generation of Inherits” that has been expected since the early 2000s has also not led to huge financial benefits for organisations of societal benefit. Additionally, there are a lot of associations looking for money nowadays. Big organisations that are well-known by the public are often favoured, even if small and medium associations are more flexible, also do very good work and often initiate innovative projects.

The GNF as dwarf amongst foundations with 15 staff members at present but more than 30 current projects is caught in the conflict between project work and its financing. On the one hand, our budget share for administration, fundraising and PR work is very low with less than 20 percent, but these tasks also have to be fulfilled in a way that is feasible at the moment but also viable for the future. Structural changes always include investments in hardware, software and staff. To be competitive in the non-profit sector, we have to have enough available money that is not bound to projects in addition to the project related fundings. Only then we will be able to successfully initiate and complete projects. Our donors play a crucial role here. More and more

people are starting to recognise that a working organisation needs stable finances and an administration that is compliant with the future. Even though donations for environmental organisations tend to decrease in general, our donors have also been loyal in 2016. We are very grateful for this important support. Cooperations with companies are also an important way to generate own contributions.

The biggest share of our income consists of project-related grant approvals from public agencies like Federal Ministries or the EU. Apart from that, private foundations and companies also support us. The third component of our income consists of private donations and ongoing donations. The possibility to be financed through monetary fines is heavily decreasing nowadays. We put a lot of effort into all four pillars to generate income. Before a project can start, it has to be developed carefully and applications have to be made. Only about every fourth project application is approved.

In addition, we have to keep in touch with foundations and companies, to intensify cooperations. This is not always easy to integrate into daily project work. Visits with presentations and reports about our work are an important part of such cooperations. Our donors also want to be looked after and updated with continuity. Not only the technical part of creating a donation receipt is important, but also establishing a personal contact. A lot of our donors support our work via distribution of material amongst their friends, advertise our projects during their activities and participate in our campaigns.

15 years ago, the “Living Lakes – Circle of friends” was created. This is an open group of very committed people that support the GNF actively or through donations. We provide special donor’s journeys for them to visit project regions in Germany. Our Living Lakes saving bond donors also need to be mentioned. Unfortunately, interests for ecological capital investments are also suffering from low interest rates, so that this income source is way smaller now than in the past. Inheritances are seldom. We provide a last will and testament advisor to help people go that way, if they want to. A lot of people requested this information. Other valuable ways of supporting the GNF are provided by tax-reduced endowments to the foundation’s capital. This opens up the opportunity to let the capital work sustainably for the environment.

### Use of Funds

The GNF’s project work is split up into four working fields

- Living Lakes Network & Water
- Nature Conservation
- Sustainable Development & Development Cooperation
- Business & Biodiversity

The unique Living Lakes network consists of 107 lakes and wetlands represented by 130 organisations. National and multinational networks like the Network Living Lakes Germany have evolved from the initial network. Living Lakes was founded in 1998 and has been coordinated by the GNF since then. Most of the lake and wetland protec-

tion projects are developed and implemented together with the partner organisations. In the field of Nature Conservation we set up campaigns and projects to protect species and maintain traditional cultural landscapes. Sustainable Development & Development Cooperation is getting more and more important. A lot of different projects are being coordinated in this working field no matter whether the focus is subsistence, clean drinking water or climate action. Among the most important supporters are the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) and BMZ (German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development). The working field of Business and Biodiversity is coordinated from the office in Bonn. There, projects to integrate nature and resource conservation into the daily business life are developed and implemented. These projects are almost exclusively conducted by the GNF and its partners and therefore mark an important goal of civil society in Germany.

### Disclosure and Transparency

We attach great importance to transparency. This is why our annual reports do not only present the last years’ achievements, but also point out the annual figures. The balance sheet and profit and loss account are depicted in detail. Fundraising and use of funds are illustrated. The report is sent to all donors, supporters, and project partners. Additionally, both the annual financial statement and the foundation’s statutes are available for download on our website. Since 2015, the GNF has been supporting the standardised report duties of the Initiative Transparente Zivilgesellschaft (ITZ) and is allowed to carry their logo.



« In 2016, a selection of project topics was published as a mailing.

## Presentation of Annual Accounts

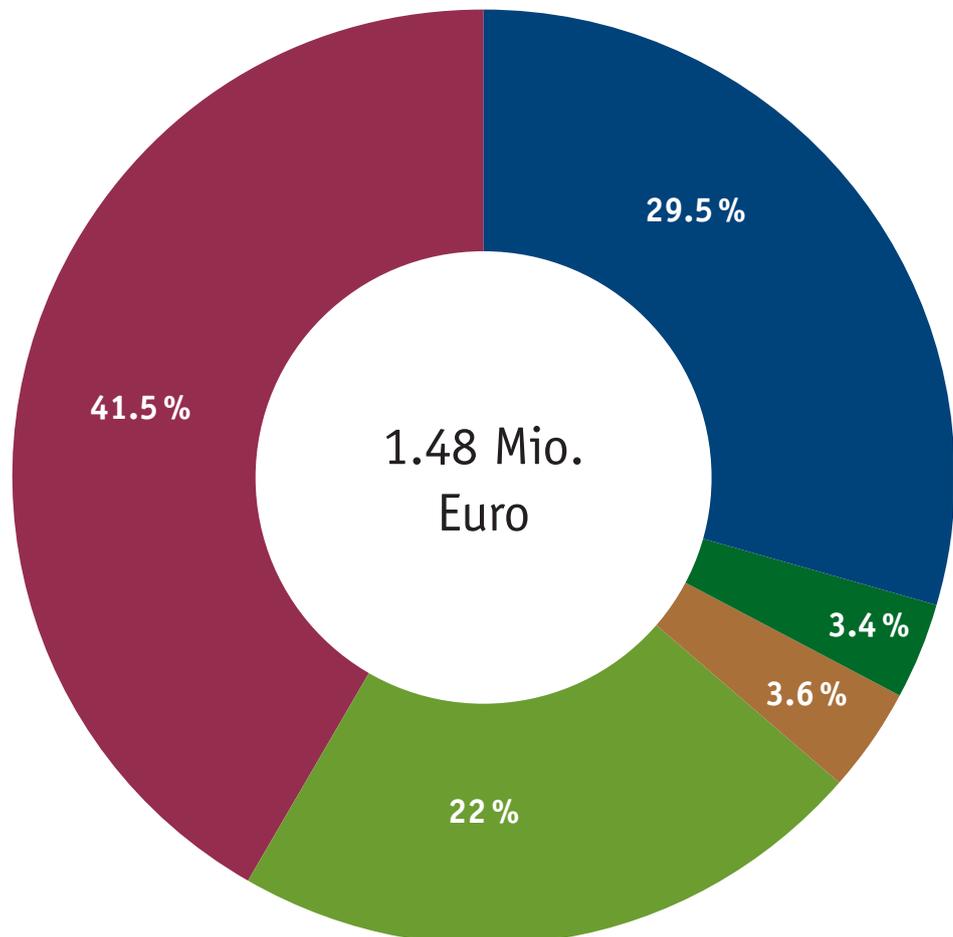
The Global Nature Fund voluntarily allows its balances to be checked every year. Its financial information is published in the form of a balance sheet that is in accordance with the Commercial Code, the Berlin Foundation Law and our valid constitution. Income and expenditures of every

fiscal year are displayed in a statement of profit and loss. The yearly balance is checked by an independent accountant and presented to the supervisory and financial authorities.

For the financial year 2016, the Global Nature Fund received a comprehensive certificate. The results are documented within the report about

## Budget 2016 – Revenues in Euro

<b>Donations</b>	<b>437,006.11</b>
<b>Sponsorship</b>	<b>50,000.00</b>
<b>Interest, allocation of fines and other income</b>	<b>53,992.45</b>
<b>Consumption of donations, allowances of pre-accounting year</b>	<b>326,000.49</b>
<b>Project allowances</b>	<b>614,947.29</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,481,946.34</b>



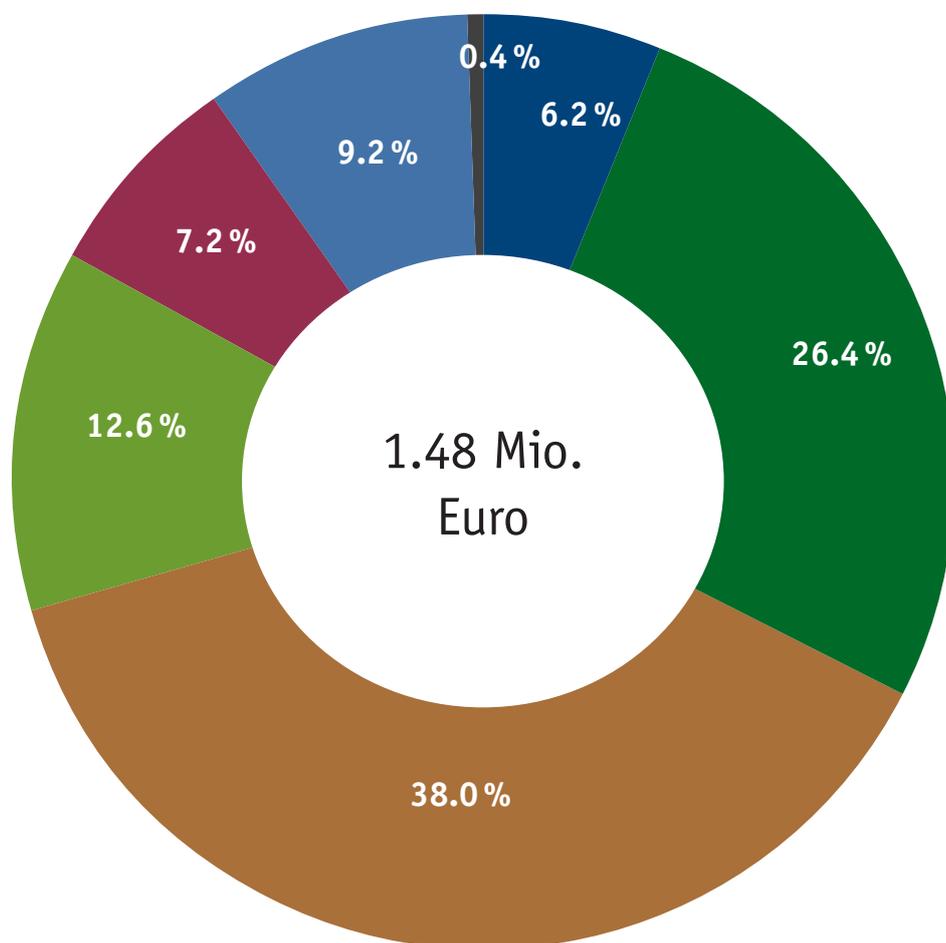
the check of annual accounts of 31.12.2016 and in the explanatory report accompanying the annual accounts.

year 33,082.63 Euro). The reserves from December 31, 2016 amounted to 357,385.22 Euro (previous year 351,580.01 Euro). The foundation's capital remained stable at 417,638.04 Euro.

The balance sheet totals for the 2016 fiscal year came to 2,336,911.46 Euro (previous year 2,149,022.05 Euro). There was an injection of free reserves in the amount of 5,805.21 Euro (previous

### Budget 2016 – Expenses in Euro

<b>Living Lakes &amp; Water</b>	<b>91,257.23</b>
<b>Business &amp; Biodiversity</b>	<b>391,327.90</b>
<b>Sustainable Development &amp; Development Cooperation</b>	<b>564,074.18</b>
<b>Nature Conservation &amp; Environmental Education</b>	<b>186,416.78</b>
<b>Fundraising &amp; Public Relations</b>	<b>107,182.41</b>
<b>General Administration</b>	<b>135,882.63</b>
<b>Appropriation to Free Reserves</b>	<b>5,805.21</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,481,946.34</b>



Global Nature Fund, 78315 Radolfzell, Germany  
Profit and Loss Account from 1 January to 31 December 2016

Revenues from statutable activities	€
1. Donations and Allowances	
a) Donations and Allowances in general	
Donations accrued in accounting year	229,006.11
Consumption of donations accrued in pre-accounting year	0,00
Not yet realised donations in accounting year	0,00
Longer term donations and allowances	-188.99
<b>Revenue from consumption of donations in accounting year</b>	<b>229,195.10</b>
b) Donations and Allowances earmarked	
Donations accrued in accounting year	1,653,085.30
Consumption of donations accrued in pre-accounting year	325,811.50
Not yet realised donations in accounting year	206,231.24
Consumption of received instalments in pre-accounting year	668,954.75
Not yet realised instalments in accounting year	1,242,861.52
<b>Revenue from consumption of donations in accounting year</b>	<b>1,198,758.79</b>
2. Other Income and revenues	
a) Interest and other yield on assets	5,946.97
b) Other Revenues	47,645.48
c) Allocation of monetary fines	400.00
d) Legacies	0.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>1,481,946.34</b>
<b>Expenditures from statutable activities</b>	
€	
Project Expenses	683,713.40
Personnel Expenses	528,215.46
Social security contributions and pension fund	118,318.12
Other expenditures	
Business operation expenses (Administration)	89,847.10
Fundraising and Public Relation	54,515.84
Interest and similar expenditures	1.06
Depreciation	1,530.15
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>1,476,141.13</b>
<b>Annual Profit/Loss before application of funds</b>	<b>5,805.21</b>
Appropriation to/withdrawal from free reserves	5,805.21
	0.00

Auditing according to § 316 ff HGB by chartered accountant Dr. Herberger GmbH, Konstanz.

## Global Nature Fund, 78315 Radolfzell, Germany

## Balance Sheet per 31 December 2016

AKTIVA		PASSIVA	
	31.12.2016 €	31.12.2016 €	previous year €
<b>A. Fixed Assets</b>			
<b>I. Tangible Assets</b>			
- Furniture and Office Equipment	607.18	86,919.62	86,919.62
<b>II. Financial Assets</b>		330,718.42	330,718.42
- Investment	306.78	417,638.04	417,638.04
<b>B. Current Assets</b>			
<b>I. Stocks</b>			
- Projects in process	1,168,728.21	351,580.01	318,497.38
<b>II. Receivables and other assets</b>		5,805.21	33,082.63
- Accounts receivable (suppliers and services)	77,313.66	357,385.22	351,580.01
- Receivables from EU	0.00		
- Other receivables	9,392.66		
<b>III. Cash and current bank accounts</b>			
- Cash in hand	2,239.74	0.00	0.00
- Bank accounts	626,303.58	607.18	796.17
- Fixed term deposit	448,930.51	607.18	796.17
<b>C. Accrued Items</b>			
	1,077,473.83		
	3,089.13		
<b>Total of Activa/Assets</b>	<b>2,336,911.45</b>		
<b>A. Equity Capital</b>			
<b>I. Foundation Capital</b>			
- Seed Capital			
- Increase in Capital			
<b>II. Reserves</b>			
<b>Free Reserves</b>			
- Balance carried forward on 01.01.2016			
- Appropriation to reserves			
- Balance 31.12.2016			
<b>B. Not yet realised donations and allowances</b>			
- Not yet realized donations and allowances			
- Longer term donations and allowances			
<b>C. Provisions</b>			
- Provisions for Pension Fund and similar obligations			
- Other Provisions			
<b>D. Liabilities</b>			
- Received Payments for projects		1,242,861.52	668,954.75
- Liabilities to supplier and services		37,177.68	331,812.99
- Liabilities to allowances		26,000.00	0.00
- Liabilities from not yet realised earmarked donations and allowances		206,231.24	325,811.50
- Other Liabilities		15,411.41	18,439.48
		1,527,681.85	1,345,018.72
<b>Total of Passiva/Liabilities</b>	<b>2,336,911.45</b>	<b>2,336,911.45</b>	<b>2,149,022.05</b>



Marion Hammer, President

Auditing according to § 316 ff HGB by chartered accountant Dr. Herberger GmbH, Konstanz.

## Cooperative Partnerships

Being part of global networks is essential for the Global Nature Fund's work. This includes the reliability of project partners to be able to successfully implement joint projects. We are also in need of support by public agencies and private institutions. Cooperations with companies open up possibilities not only for project financing but also for content-related work.

### Cooperative Projects with Business

The Swiss Sika AG company has supported the GNF's project work for twelve years now, e.g. drinking water projects in Africa that include reparation of ground water pumps and building drinking water facilities, as well as building green filter systems in the Philippines, in Colombia and in South Africa. Green filter projects are also supported by the Alfred Kärcher GmbH & Co. KG. Currently, seven plants are being built in Latin America, four are already fully functioning. For many years now, the Daimler AG has been supporting our mangrove restoration activities in Asia and measures to improve the management of protected areas in Europe.

In the food sector, the GNF cooperates with companies in the course of various projects. As part of a permaculture board of the company Real,- the GNF supports ecological farming. Within the EU LIFE project "Biodiversity Criteria in Standards and Quality Labels for the Food Industry", the GNF cooperates with Fairtrade Germany, Qz Baden-Württemberg, Kaufland, Nestlé, Symrise, UTZ and

UEBT. Sustainable food production is also the focal point of our cooperation with Nestlé Germany.

The Sekisui Chemical Company has been working with the GNF since 2012. Biological diversity in the quality and environmental management of the company is a topic considered at various sites. Since 2015, the Network Living Lakes Germany has been receiving support from Meopta, which is a producer of binoculars and spotting scopes. Customers of the GLS Bank can support the international Living Lakes Network with their return when they invest in the Project Saving Living Lakes.

### International Cooperation Partners and Private Funders

With the support of the Wilo-Foundation, the first "Living Lakes Sustainability Leadership Journey" could take place in South Africa in December 2016. The installation of a water purification system in Colombia was also supported by this Foundation. Our worldwide projects have been supported by the Foundation Ursula Merz for many years. Their support is vital for many of our activities, including green filter projects in Latin America and ground water pumps in the Ivory Coast.

The football club Hannover 96 and the Rote Kurve – 96 Supporters Club and all active volunteers have been supporting the joint project "Drinking Cups for Drinking Water" since 2009 through the collection of Drinking Cups at every home match. Fans can donate the deposit for their cups in the stadium. The money is then used to finance water plants in Kenya, Senegal and Ivory Coast.

Worldwide cooperations promote sustainable development – for the people in the project areas and to protect the environment.



With fundings from the Hand in Hand-Fund by the Environmental Action Germany and Rapunzel Naturkost, a project supporting sustainable mate cultivation in Paraguay is supported. Also, Masai shepherds in Northern Tanzania are supported by them.

The Osram AG and the Siemens Foundation are very important partners in the project "Water-Energy Hubs for Kenya – Solar Energy for Rural Kenya".

### Cooperation with Public Institutions

Various German Federal Ministries have been supporting and funding our work for many years, especially the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) which is currently funding twelve of our projects. Five of them are joint fundings together with the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), one with the German Federal Environment Agency (UBA) and three via GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The projects cover all four working fields of the GNF and include measures in Germany, Europe, Africa, South America and Asia.

Three of our current projects are funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) – two of them being green filter projects for waste water treatment and one for mangrove protection in Asia. The German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) supports our project "Green instead of Grey – Industrial Parks in Transition", which is being implemented in Germany.

The German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU) is currently supporting our projects "Biodiversity at Camping Sites in Germany" and "Biodiversity in Standards and Labels for the Food Industry". The Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is a supporter of our Partnership for the Biodiversity in Central America.

Our project work is also supported by the European Union (EU) in four different programmes. Our initiative "Biodiversity Criteria in Standards and Quality Labels of the Food Industry" is supported within the EU LIFE programme and by DBU. The EuropAid programme of the EU is supporting our activities to preserve biodiversity in the Caribbean region. The Interreg Danube Transnational

Thanks to the support of our sponsors, we are able to carry out the numerous projects for the preservation of our environment.



Programme Vb which is cofinanced by funds of the European Union (ERDF, IPA, ENI), supports our project “Ecosystem Services of Protected Karst Areas” along the Danube River. Two other projects are supported by the Erasmus+ programme. The first one is our partnership for biodiversity protection in European vineyards which is being implemented in four different countries and the second one is our project “Citizens for Energy Transition” that consists of partners in six different countries.

cies UNEP/CMS through which shared goals of our organisations are emphasized. The Environmental Action Germany (DUH) has been our partner for a long time now, in Thailand we cooperate with the Biodiversity-Based Economy Development Office (BEDO).

Under the framework of the “Earth Overshoot Day” we are cooperating with the international Global Footprint Network. Our commitment to the German Action Alliance for Sustainable Bananas (ABNB) is relatively new, we joined 2016. We are also active in the FAO’s (UN Food and Agriculture Organisation) Sustainable Food Systems Programme (SFS). We are in regular communication with the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum.

✍ In the Living Lakes Network, more than 130 nature and environmental protection organisations work to preserve the 107 member lakes on all continents.

**Partnerships**

For many years there have been close cooperations with the Secretariats of the Ramsar Convention for the Conservation of Wetlands and the UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Spe-

# Living Lakes



## Partner Organisations in Projects



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African Wildlife Foundation  
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[www.eco-world.de](http://www.eco-world.de)



ADVID – Associação para o Desenvolvimento da Viticultura Duriense  
[www.advid.pt](http://www.advid.pt)



ARISU GmbH  
[www.arisu-gmbh.com](http://www.arisu-gmbh.com)



Biodiversity-Based Economy Development Office (BEDO)  
[www.bedo.or.th](http://www.bedo.or.th)



'Biodiversity in Good Company' Initiative e. V.  
[www.business-and-biodiversity.de](http://www.business-and-biodiversity.de)



Biodiversity Partnership Mesoamerica (BPM)  
[www.bpmesoamerica.org](http://www.bpmesoamerica.org)



Biraturaba  
[www.globalnature.org/bedrohtersee2017](http://www.globalnature.org/bedrohtersee2017)



Bodensee-Stiftung  
[www.bodensee-stiftung.org](http://www.bodensee-stiftung.org)



Botanischer Garten & Botanisches Museum Berlin (BGBM)  
[www.bgbm.org](http://www.bgbm.org)



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Centre for Research on New International Economic Order (CRenIEO)  
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	EMACE Foundation of Sri Lanka <a href="http://www.emace.org">www.emace.org</a>
	Energies 2050 <a href="http://www.energies2050.org">www.energies2050.org</a>
	Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT) <a href="http://www.fact.org.kh">www.fact.org.kh</a>
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	Fundación Moisés Bertoni (FMB) <a href="http://www.mbertoni.org.py">www.mbertoni.org.py</a>
	Habitat for Humanity <a href="http://www.hfh.de">www.hfh.de</a>
	Heinz Sielmann Stiftung <a href="http://www.sielmann-stiftung.de">www.sielmann-stiftung.de</a>



Institut für Ökologische Wirtschaftsforschung (IÖW)  
www.ioew.de



Instituto Superior Técnico (IST)  
www.tecnico.ulisboa.pt



La Unió de L'agricultura i Ramaders  
www.launio.org und www.farmersunion.eu



Le Centre Urbain – Stadswinkel  
www.centreurbaain.be



Light for Life Kenya  
www.globalnature.org/solar-kenia

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www.globalnature.org/trinkbecher



Mangrove Action Project (MAP)  
www.mangroveactionproject.org



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Nagenahiru Foundation – Center for Conservation of Lakes and Wetlands  
www.nagenahiru.org



Nationalpark Kalkalpen  
www.kalkalpen.at



National Park Tara  
www.nptara.rs



Nature Environment & Wildlife Society (NEWS)  
www.naturewildlife.org



Nature Park Zumberak Samoborsko gorje  
www.park-zumberak.hr



Notranjska Regional Park  
www.notranjski-park.si



Öko-Institut e.V. – Institut für angewandte Ökologie  
www.oeko.de



Ökologische Schutzstation Steinhuder Meer (ÖSSM e.V.)  
www.oessm.org



OroVerde – Die Tropenwaldstiftung  
www.regenwald-schuetzen.org



Quercus – Associação nacional de Conservação da natureza  
www.quercus.pt



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Society for the Protection of Philippine Wetlands (scpw)  
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Wildlands Conservation Trust  
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