



OPEN LETTER OF PROTEST by the Global Nature Fund (GNF) and Living Lakes Network to the Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and Minister of Environment Ricardo Salles AGAINST THE SLASH-AND-BURN IN THE BRAZILIAN PANTANAL

The Pantanal is on fire.

At Global Nature Fund, our hearts are bleeding in view of the pictures and reports that are currently reaching us from the largest tropical wetland on earth.

The South American Pantanal has long been a member of the Living Lakes Network coordinated by GNF whose members are committed to the protection of lakes and wetlands worldwide. Already in 2007, together with our Brazilian Living Lakes partner Fundação Ecotrópica we drew attention to the threat the region is facing, when the Pantanal had been declared “Threatened Lake of the Year”.

But little has happened in the meantime to protect the Pantanal – on the contrary, since July 2020, fires have destroyed more than a tenth of its unique ecosystem. On behalf of the more than 130 member organisations of the International Living Lakes Network, we implore you to take

immediate measures to end the dramatic situation in the Pantanal and to protect the ecosystem effectively and sustainably in the future. Politicians on both sides of the Atlantic must act decisively now to prevent this UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site from being irreversibly destroyed.

The Pantanal, home to jaguar, hyacinth macaws and swamp deer, is of great importance for the South American water cycle. The cause of the current destruction is arson, especially in southwestern Brazil, which is mainly serving the expansion of cattle pastures and areas for soybean cultivation of large agricultural companies, as scientists have proven.

The Brazilian Federal Government does not or only unwillingly take action against these crimes. Speaking to the UN, President Jair Bolsonaro blamed the indigenous population and the small farmers of his country for the arson or denied the fires altogether –claiming that wetlands were wet and therefore could not burn.

The nature conservationists of Fundação Ecotrópica are working tirelessly to contain the effects of the fires and to help the weakened wildlife of the Pantanal: Feeding islands for example keep lowland tapir and other key species alive when the fire has taken everything they had. However, there are hundreds of thousands of rare or endangered animals that perish in the flames or die through lack of food which we cannot save.

In order to alleviate the present suffering and to prevent it in the future, the Global Nature Fund (GNF) and the Living Lakes Network are calling for action:

To the government of Brazil, President Jair Bolsonaro and Minister of Environment Ricardo Salles:

Do not encourage farmers to make room for new agricultural land by slash-and-burn practices. An intact Pantanal ecosystem is crucial for water cycles and climate protection in Brazil!

In the long run, the strategy of short-term profit has devastating consequences not only for the indigenous peoples whose homeland the Pantanal is and for the ecology and economy of Brazil and all of South America, but also for the biodiversity, climate and prosperity of the world. The Brazilian government has made a commitment to the UN to effectively protect the Pantanal as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Step up to this commitment!

To the European Union and the European national governments:

We urge you to put pressure on the Brazilian government to abandon the destructive policy of laissez-faire and turn its attention to the protection of the country's natural resources. Develop concrete measures to reduce the production and consumption of industrial meat, egg and dairy products. Create incentives to make the cultivation of protein crops more attractive. Encourage domestic production of legumes which would also have other positive effects, e.g. for beekeeping, wild pollinators, or nitrogen fixation in the soil – regional measures on our doorstep that would contribute at the same time to the sustainable prosperity of Brazil and to the unique nature of the Pantanal.

To all of us as consumers:

Let us reconsider our consumption and nutritional decisions. Buying cheap meat from discounters or supermarkets is directly related to the destruction of priceless life in the Pantanal. Three-quarters of the soy produced worldwide is used as feed for livestock animals which are slaughtered – and almost all the feed soy in Germany and the EU comes from South America. On a highly interconnected planet, our behavior has global consequences for living beings, ecosystems and the climate. Let us act together in this awareness.

On behalf of the 130 Living Lakes member organisations around the world:



MARION HAMMERL



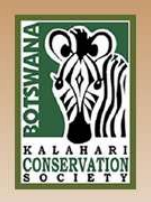







President of the Global Nature Fund




























UDO GATTENLÖHNER
















Executive Director of the Global Nature Fund

Partner organisations of the International Living Lakes Network

NAME OF ORGANISATION	COUNTRY	LAKE REGION	LOGO
Global Nature Fund	Germany	Coordinator of International Living Lakes Network	 Global Nature Fund
Amis de l'Afrique Francophone-Bénin (AMAF-BENIN)	Benin	Nokoué	
Kalahari Conservation Society Botswana (KCS)	Botswana	Okavango Delta	
Wilderness Foundation South Africa (WFSA)	Botswana	Okavango Delta	
Association Biraturaba	Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Zambia	Tanganyika	
African Marine Mammal Conservation Organization	Cameroon	Ossa	
OSIENALA (Friends of Lake Victoria)	Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda	Victoria	
Youth Action Foundation Uganda	Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda	Victoria	
Fishers Union Organisation (FUO)	Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda	Victoria	
ECOVIC	Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda	Victoria	

Action for Environmental Sustainability (AfES)	Malawi, Tansania, Mosambique	Malawi	
Centre for Child Development and Research (CCDR)	Malawi, Tansania, Mosambique	Malawi	
Common Front for the Protection of the Environment and Protected Areas (FCPEEP)	Rwanda, Democratic Republic of the Congo	Kivu	
Global Initiative for Environment and Reconciliation (GER)	Rwanda, Democratic Republic of the Congo	Kivu	
Friends of the Environment and Culture (FOTEC)	Sierra Leone	Sonfon	
The Wilderness Foundation	South Africa	St. Lucia	
Wild Trust	South Africa	St. Lucia	
Tanzania Environmental and Tourism Educational Organization (TETEO)	Tanzania	Jipe	
Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development	Uganda	Wamala	
Bangladesh Environment and Development Society (BEDS)	Bangladesh	Sundarbans Wetland and Mangrove Forest in Bangladesh	
Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT)	Cambodia	Tonle Sap	
Jiangxi Academy of Sciences	China	Poyang-hu	
MRLSD - Promotion Association for Mountain-River-Lake Regional Sustainable Development	China	Poyang-hu	
Black Sea Eco-Academy	Georgia	Paliastomi	

Association for Rural Area Social Modification Improvement and Nestling (ARASMIN)	India	Chilika	
CRenIEO - Centre for Research on New International Economic Order	India	Pulicat	
South Asian Voluntary Association of Environmentalists (SAVAE)	India (Kashmir)	Wular	
Yayasan Konservasi RASI (Conservation Foundation for Rare Aquatic Species of Indonesia)	Indonesia	Jempang and Mahakam Wetlands	
EcoPeace Middle East	Israel, Jordan, Palestine	Dead Sea	
International Lake Environment Committee Foundation (ILEC)	Japan	Biwa	
Korgaljinski Goszapovednik Kazakhstan (Korgazhyn State Nature Reserve)	Kazakhstan	Tengiz and Korgaljinski Lakes	
Mongol Environmental Conservation (US)/Mongol Ecology Center (Mongolia)	Mongolia	Hovsgol	
United Movement of Mongolian Rivers & Lakes	Mongolia	Ulaan, Airag, Khyargas, Angir-Nuden Mondooshei	
Uvs Green Movement, NGO	Mongolia	Uvs	
Sangat Development Foundation (SANGAT)	Pakistan	Deh Akro	
Friends of the Seven Lakes Foundation	Philippines	Sampaloc	
PUSOD, Inc.	Philippines	Taal	
CLEAR - Conservation of Laguna de Bay's Environment and Resources	Philippines	Laguna de Bay	

Laguna Lake Development Authority	Philippines	Laguna de Bay	
Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands Environment and Resources	Philippines	Laguna de Bay	
Baikal Information Center GRAN	Russia, Siberia	Baikal	
Bolgoda Lake Office, EMACE Foundation of Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Bolgoda	
Nagenahiru Foundation - Center for Conservation of Lakes and Wetlands (NGO)	Sri Lanka	Maduganga and Madampe	
WWF-Turkey	Turkey	Egirdir and Uluabat	
ADASU Water & Sewage Administration	Turkey	Sapanca	
Nilüfer Kent Konseyi	Turkey	Uluabat	
Green Skills, Centre for Sustainable Living	Australia	Wilson Inlet	
Kolindsunds Venner - Friends of Kolindsund	Denmark	Kolindsund Wetlands	
Estonian Fund for Nature (ELF)	Estonia	Võrtsjärv	
Lake Võrtsjärv Fisheries Development Agency	Estonia	Võrtsjärv	 MTÜ Võrtsjärve Kalanduspiirkond
CTC Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation	Estonia, Russia	Peipsi	
Lake Constance Foundation (Bodensee-Stiftung)	Germany, Switzerland, Austria	Lake Constance	
EPO - Society for Protection of Nature and Eco-development	Greece	Nestos Lakes and Lagoons	
Association of Civil Organisations of Lake Balaton	Hungary	Balaton	

Lake Balaton Development Coordination Agency	Hungary	Balaton	
Legambiente Onlus	Italy	Trasimeno	
Labanoras Regional Park Visitor's Centre	Lithuania	Labonoras	
Polish Society of Wildlife Friends "pro Natura"	Poland	Milicz Ponds	
Stowarzyszenie Ekologiczne "Etna"	Poland	Milicz Ponds	
Ayuntamiento de Valencia	Spain	Albufera	
Fundación Global Nature	Spain	Albufera, Laguna La Nava and La Mancha Wetlands	
GOB (Balearic Group of Ornithology and Defence of Nature)	Spain	Salobrar de Campos	
Lake District National Park Authority	United Kingdom	Lake District	
Norfolk Wildlife Trust	United Kingdom	Norfolk & Suffolk Broads	
The Broads Authority	United Kingdom	Norfolk & Suffolk Broads	
Centro de Zoología Aplicada Argentina, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, PROMAR	Argentina	Mar Chiquita	
Asociación Ambiente Sur	Argentina	Río Gallegos	
ECOTROPICA Brazil	Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay	Pantanal Wetlands	
Fundación Humedales	Colombia	Laguna Fuquene	
Fundación Montecito	Colombia	Tota	
Comite del Lago de Amatitlán	Guatemala	Amatitlán	

Asociación Vivamos Mejor Guatemala	Guatemala	Atitlán	
Fundacion de la Cuenca Lerma-Chapala-Santiago A.C.	Mexico	Chapala	
Institute of Environmental Law (IDEA)	Mexico	Chapala	
Sociedad de Amigos del Lago de Chapala, A. C.	Mexico	Chapala	
Aipromades Lago de Chapala	Mexico	Chapala	
Institute Corazon de la Tierra	Mexico	Ignacio Allende Reservoir	
Centro de Investigación Lago de Zapotlán y Cuencas (CILZC)	Mexico	Zapotlán	
Coordinación General de Desarrollo Económico, Turístico y Agropecuario (CGDETA)	Mexico	Zapotlán	
Patronato del Nevado De Colima y Cuencas Adyacentes (PNCCA)	Mexico	Zapotlán	
Fundación Moisés Bertoni (FMB)	Paraguay	Lagunita Complex	
CEDAS - Centro de Desarrollo Ambiental y Social	Peru, Bolivia	Titicaca	
SERECO	Peru, Bolivia	Titicaca	
ALT Bolivia-Peru	Peru, Bolivia	Titicaca	
Fundación Amigos de las Lagunas Costeras de Rocha	Uruguay	Laguna de Rocha	
Lake Winnipeg Foundation Inc. (LWF)	Canada	Winnipeg	

Living Lakes Canada

Canada, BC

Columbia River
Wetlands



Mono Lake Committee

USA,
California

Mono Lake

